

Westtown Township

1039 Wilmington Pike

P.O. Box 79

Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395

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The Westtown Gazette

THE QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

From the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Charles P. Barber, Chair

Carol R. DeWolf, Vice Chair

Thomas A. Foster, Police Commissioner

April 2010

For Police, Fire, and Medical EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911—For NON-EMERGENCIES, dial 610-692-5100

The Westtown Gazette

Volume XIV, Issue 2

Westtown Township, County of Chester

Second Quarter 2010

Chester County Useful Contacts and Phone Numbers

Government Services Center – 601 Westtown Road
Chester County Court House – 2 N. High Street, West Chester Borough
District Justice for Westtown – William Kraut
(District Court 15-2-03) – 610-436-5757
Chester County Court House & Government Services Center
Information – 610-344-6000
Children, Youth & Families – 610-344-5800
Department of Emergency Services – 610-344-5000
Health Department – 610-344-6225
 Septic Systems – 610-344-6126
 Recycling/Hazardous Waste – 610-273-3771, ext. 226
License Bureau (Dog, Fishing, Hunting) – 610-344-6370
Marriage License Bureau – 610-344-6335
Office of the Ageing – 610-344-6009
Passports – 610-344-6050
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 Conservation District – 610-925-4920
West Chester Area School District –
 829 Paoli Pike, West Chester PA 19380
 Main Number – 484-266-1000
 School Tax – 484-266-1035
State Senate District – 26th District
 Edwin B. Erickson – Local 610-853-4100 – State 717-787-1350
State House District – 168 District
 Tom H. Killion – Local 610-325-1541 – State 717-772-0855
U. S. Senator
 Arlen Specter – Local – 1-215-597-7200 – Federal – 1-202-224-4254
 Robert Casey – Local – 1-215-405-9660 – Federal – 1-202-228-0604
 www.casey.senate.gov
Congressional District – 7th District
 Joe Sestak – Local 610-892-8623 – Federal – 1-202-225-8137

REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR CENSUS FORM!

Yard Waste Collection

Saturday, April 17th. Place material at the curb before 7am in biodegradable bags (available at the Township Office), or open containers which can be dumped. Branches must be cut in 3 foot lengths.

Real Estate Tax bills

Westtown Township 2010 Real Estate Tax bills were mailed March 1st. Taxes are due at the discount by April 30th. Partial payments are not accepted. If you did not receive your bill, please call the Township Office 610 692-1930, for a duplicate.

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Westtown Township * Chester County * Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Street Address: 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA 19382-7370

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

Phone: (610) 692-1930 ** Fax: (610) 692-9651 ** E-mail (questions for the Township office) - info@westtown.org;
(Comments for the Manager & Board of Supervisors) - supervisors@westtown.org ** Website: www.westtownpa.org

Westtown Township is both family and community oriented. Westtown emphasizes a high quality of life while enjoying and maintaining its natural and manmade environments.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

Delinquent Utility Bills

Westtown Township, in its endeavor to keep the rates it charges for trash collection and sewer rates at a minimum, will be stepping up the process of collecting overdue accounts. Past Township practice has been to send reminder letters to property owners whose bills have not been paid. In the future, if these letters do not result in the prompt payment of the overdue accounts, the Township will take legal action to enforce the collection. Such action involves considerable extra costs added to overdue account.

The intent of this action is not to penalize the delinquent property owners, but to avoid penalizing those who do pay their bills regularly and on time. The Township must meet its expenses and does not wish to raise its rates to make up for those who do not.

If you get a collection letter, please do not ignore it. Contact the Township Office. The staff will work with you to devise a payment program so that we can avoid taking legal action.

Presby Homes – Makemie Ridge

Recently the Township was informed that Presby Homes was withdrawing the application for the Makemie Ridge project. Makemie Ridge was one component of a proposal which provided for a varied but unified development of the Crebilly Farm Property. At this time no other plans have been submitted for the development of the Crebilly Farm property.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

A Winter to Remember

No one in Westtown will soon forget the Winter of 2009-2010 – especially the Township road crew that is responsible for clearing Westtown's 54 miles of roads and 91 cul-de-sacs. Despite four record snow storms from December through February, our road crew met the challenge.

The most demanding element of snow removal this year was the depth of each snowfall. The majority of our trucks are not large enough to plow the roads open to full width when totals exceed 18 inches of wet and heavy snow. Our workers, some of whom worked in excess of 30 hours straight, managed the challenge by non-stop, repetitive plowing throughout the storms.

Westtown recorded a total of 70 inches of snowfall for the Winter of 2009-2010: 20 inches in December, 3 inches in January and 47 inches in February. The Township declared local emergencies for all but the last storm in February, so road crew could exceed the normal hours behind the wheel.

The first large snow occurred shortly before Christmas. The crew worked

around the clock to keep the blizzard conditions from drifting and reaching levels that would make roads totally impassable.

The men never went home throughout the storm. They took breaks over

two days of the storm by sleeping on the floor at the Administration Building and the Police Station, so they could quickly get back on the road after a couple of hours sleep.

continued on next page



A Winter to Remember continued from page 3



Just as the snow mounted up throughout the Township, so did the costs. Based on past winters, the Township budgeted \$130,000 annually for salt, extra equipment and outside drivers. The final seasonal costs amounted to \$164,000,

which is straining the Township's already tight finances. The State has created an emergency fund to provide additional funds to some local governments, and Westtown has applied. So far, no community in Chester County has been approved.

Adding to the challenges of snow clearing were downed trees and branches that had to be removed from the road. According to Mark Gross, Roadmaster, the greatest challenge was dealing with the high winds associated with the storms. Blowing and drifting snow decreased visibility while drifts were up to 5 feet deep in multiple locations.

Cars parked in the street caused special problems because the trucks could not properly clear the roads. The problem was especially troublesome in dense neighborhoods such as Coventry Village and Wild Goose Farm where roads are already extremely narrow.

Hats off to our road crew—Mark Gross, Westtown Township Roadmaster, Bob Doan, Dave Brown, Chris Culberson, Jon Pennington and 12 outside drivers—for a job well done, and one that we all hope is not necessary to repeat in years to come.

*Tom Foster
Supervisor*

CHESTER COUNTY AGING SHARED RIDE PROGRAM

Chester County residents 65 or older are eligible to participate in this program made possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Chester County Department of Aging Services.

ROVER provides rides for essential trips to doctors or other medical appointments, attendance at adult day care center and senior centers, grocery stores. All of the ROVER vehicles are handicapped accessible. Registration in the program is required. The fare is 75 cents each way.

For more information and to register, call 877 873-8415.

A Traveler's Best Friendsm



Oakbourne On Track for a Great 2010

Although this winter has been frightful, the activity at Oakbourne Mansion has been delightful. In the last few months of 2009, the Oakbourne Mansion Commission (OMC) booked several corporate events and a company Christmas party bringing in several thousand dollars. Looking into 2010, the OMC has four brides planning their fantasy weddings at Oakbourne this summer. The Commission also has an estate and art auction coming in April. Kidzart will be at Oakbourne for two weeks this summer. And the Pavilion already has 10 bookings for the season. That does not count two weeks of Boy Scout and Girl Scout camp booked directly through the Township office.

But the jewel in Oakbourne's crown so far for 2010 is the Cars of England show. If you didn't see it last year,

please put June 5 (rain date June 6) on your calendar. If you like Bentleys, Rolls, Triumphs, Jaguars, and MGs not to mention Allards and Lotuses, you'll want to be at Oakbourne. Our show includes a nationally sanctioned Concours d'Elegance judging for pristine Jaguars—some valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. There are hundreds of other British cars to see, and some to buy if you are really smitten. If that's not enough, the event includes classic British motorcycles. Last year, we had Triumphs, Vincents, Nortons and BSAs. If fabulous cars and amazing motorcycles aren't enough for you, there will be shopping available inside the Mansion with ladies in mind. Last year, we had hats, clothes, makeup, artwork, etc. and we look forward to that and more this year.

All the work that is done is volunteer. The money that is raised from Mansion and Pavilion rentals benefits you, the Westtown resident. It goes to supporting the upkeep and maintenance of our Mansion. These events reduce the funds that the township has to spend to keep up our marvelous park and Mansion. So if you or someone you know, your company, friend or relative is looking for a venue for an event — weddings, picnics, graduations, birthdays, retirements, sales conferences, retreats, memorial services, etc.—please suggest Oakbourne to them. It's our very special place in Westtown where we all have chosen to make our home.

Eva Foster
Chair, Oakbourne Mansion Commission



The Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department has forwarded the following Consumer Advisory

HARRISBURG - Attorney General Tom Corbett warned Pennsylvania consumers to be wary of a new type of aggressive financial scam involving scam artists who pretend to be family members supposedly involved in a traffic accident in Canada.

Corbett said the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection has received several complaints from senior citizens in southwestern Pennsylvania who have been targeted by the scam, including an 86-year old man who lost more than \$13,000 and a 71-year old woman who lost \$4,500.

"Criminals are trying to use fear, sympathy or emotion to convince consumers to quickly send money to a relative who has run into trouble while traveling," Corbett said. "This disturbing new telephone scam is focused on Pennsylvania seniors who believe they are doing the 'right thing' by helping a family member return home safely."

Corbett said that potential victims are receiving calls from a person claiming to be their grandson, who has been involved in a traffic accident in Canada. The "grandson" explains that he does not have insurance on his car and needs several thousand dollars - either to pay for repairs to

his own car or to pay for the damage that was done to another vehicle.

"In recent incidents, victims were instructed to visit their local Wal-Mart store and send a MoneyGram wire-transfer of \$4,500 to \$5,000 to a store in Ontario, Canada," Corbett said. "In both of these cases, the victims then received a 'thank you' call from their 'grandson,' followed by a request to send more money to pay for additional repairs, fines or travel expenses."

Corbett said these scam calls appear to be a variation of another Canadian telephone scam that the Bureau of Consumer Protection warned consumers about last month.

Corbett explained that during August residents in northeastern Pennsylvania were targeted by calls from scam artists posing as police officers from Canada. In those incidents, the caller claimed that the victim's grandson had been arrested for fishing without a license and requested that the victim wire-transfer \$2,800 to an address in Ontario, Canada, in order to secure the grandson's release.

Additionally, Corbett noted that other similar scams have been reported across Pennsylvania involving telephone messages left by individuals

posing as police or hospital officials, directing victims to call a special number to receive information about a relative who has been hurt in an accident. The phone numbers that consumers are asked to call are often international numbers, though they may appear to be ordinary U.S. phone numbers, resulting in expensive long-distance bills for unsuspecting victims.

"It is important for consumers to report suspicious calls as soon as possible, so that we can warn other Pennsylvania residents about possible scams and also so that local, federal and international law enforcement can investigate these crimes," Corbett said.

Consumers with questions or problems should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-441-2555 or file an online consumer complaint.

Additionally, Corbett encouraged consumers who have lost money as the result of these scams to contact their local police department and the nearest regional office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to file a criminal report.

BEHIND THE BADGE

Cpl. Leo Kennedy

Cpl. Leo Kennedy was recognized for his 25 years of service with the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department at the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors meeting on February 16th. Cpl. Kennedy supervises the Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit whose responsibilities include traffic safety enforcement and education and serious traffic crash investigation and reconstruction. Cpl. Kennedy holds a BS Degree from Regis University.





HON. WILLIAM D. KRAUT
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF CHESTER

STATE OF THE COURT 2010

District Court 15-2-03 Westtown, West Goshen & Thornbury Townships

Dear Friends, Neighbours and Fellow Citizens:

May I take this opportunity to extend a warm personal greeting to you. I want you to know that I am personally thankful for your continued faith and trust in me. I am committed to strengthening our community in the coming year, and I value having colleagues and staff who are dedicated to serving the public. It is the sworn obligation of a Judge to ensure that every case tried in his or her court is adjudicated expeditiously, courteously, and according to law, with the fullest protection for the rights of all who are involved. I try daily to follow this belief.

I am honored to present my annual "State of the Court" address to the citizens of Westtown Township. 2009 was a busy year for our court. I am proud to report that the state of Magisterial District Court 15-2-03 remains solid, sound and stable.

Pennsylvania's Magisterial District Courts are courts with limited jurisdiction. More than 90% of all litigation in Pennsylvania occurs in the courtrooms of Magisterial District Judges. Chester County has 19 Magisterial District Courts. All summary misdemeanor and felony criminal cases originate at the Magisterial District Court level. Magisterial District Courts are also the venue for lawsuits in civil cases for amounts up to \$8,000.00 as well as the filing and disposition of minor criminal cases (summary cases) such as traffic violations, disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, truancy, game law violations, and parking tickets. There is again legislation proposed to increase the Court's jurisdictional limits in civil matters from \$8,000.00 to \$15,000.00. As I have told you in the past this will have a significant impact on the volume of cases heard by Magisterial District Courts.

As a Magisterial District Judge I conduct preliminary hearings for all serious criminal offenders to determine which cases should be held for trial at the Court of Common Pleas. I also set and accept bail and arraign defendants after arrest. I issue search warrants based upon testimony from our local police force and the state's Attorney General's office.

Public trust and confidence begins with a fair and impartial judiciary. Every day I and the other District Judges work to provide resolution of disputes, to protect constitutional rights, and to uphold the rule of law. District court 15-2-03 is one of the busiest district courts in the county. Our caseload for the year 2009 was 6,309 cases filed. The cases filed in 2009 broke down as follows: 334 criminal cases, 507 civil cases, 4,510 traffic cases, and 958 summary cases. For the year 2009 the gross amount of

revenue District Court 15-2-03 took in was \$994,502.10. Of that Westtown Township received \$42,692.79, an increase of \$10,000.00 from 2008.

During the past year I could not help but notice the rising number of middle class young adults involved in violence, underage drinking, burglaries, robberies as well as an increasing numbers of drug crimes. DUI related matters, and incidents of domestic violence were also on the increase. Those matters plus more appearances by self-represented litigants, shifts in our economy, and a more diverse population are some of the changes that have affected our township and placed different and greater demands on our court.

District Court 15-2-03 is located at the Government Services Center (GSC) 601 Westtown Road, Suite 110 West Chester, PA 19380. Our telephone number is 610-436-5757, our fax number is 610-431-5755 and the now active court website is www.chesco.org/judgekraut. The court's hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM. The court's jurisdiction includes Westtown Township, West Goshen Township and Thornbury Township Chester County.

My door is always open. If you have any suggestions on making the court run more efficiently or how our court can better serve the public please let me know. Keep in mind that I cannot and will not discuss a case that I am to hear. The court staff nor I can give legal advice to the public, so please do not get angry at the staff when they tell you they cannot answer your questions. They are under strict orders not to give legal advice. The public and I are very fortunate to have the staff that is employed at our court. They are a dedicated, hard working and conscientious group of people. Without them the court would not run as effectively and efficiently as it does.

I am available to speak to civic groups, scouts, and schools. Tours of the court are available for schools and scouts.

In closing as I start each day I try to remember the following" the most extraordinary aspect of the judiciary in a free society is that even while exercising the authority entrusted to them, judges remain the servants, not the masters, of those on whom they sit in judgment." Have a happy and healthy year.

William D. Kraut
Magisterial District Judge
Westtown, West Goshen & Thornbury

Middle School Students Participate in Robotics Tournament

On January 9th, a team of seventh graders from Saint Maximilian Kolbe School participated in the First Lego League Robotics tournament at Oxford High School. The theme of this year's competition was Smart Move, and it included development and programming of a robot to perform specific "transportation-related" tasks. Also, for the research part of the competition the team chose to investigate and recommend improvements to rush hour traffic. They sent a web survey to family and friends questioning their experiences regarding their daily commute to work.

Results of the survey indicated that over 98% commute to their jobs in a car, and of that 98% only 3% of them travel in a carpool. Commuting during rush hour takes 25% longer, and 30% are not satisfied with their commuting time.

The survey participants recommended the following ideas to reduce rush hour traffic: 1.) Car and Van Pooling; 2.) Telecommuting; 3.) Flexible Work Hours; 4.) Better Access to Public Transportation; and 5.) Reducing Accidents. The use of public transportation not only reduces traffic, but it lowers pollution, is safer, and is kinder to the environment. A couple of effective ways to avoid accidents in this area are deer awareness (especially at dawn and dusk) and avoiding cell phone use while driving.

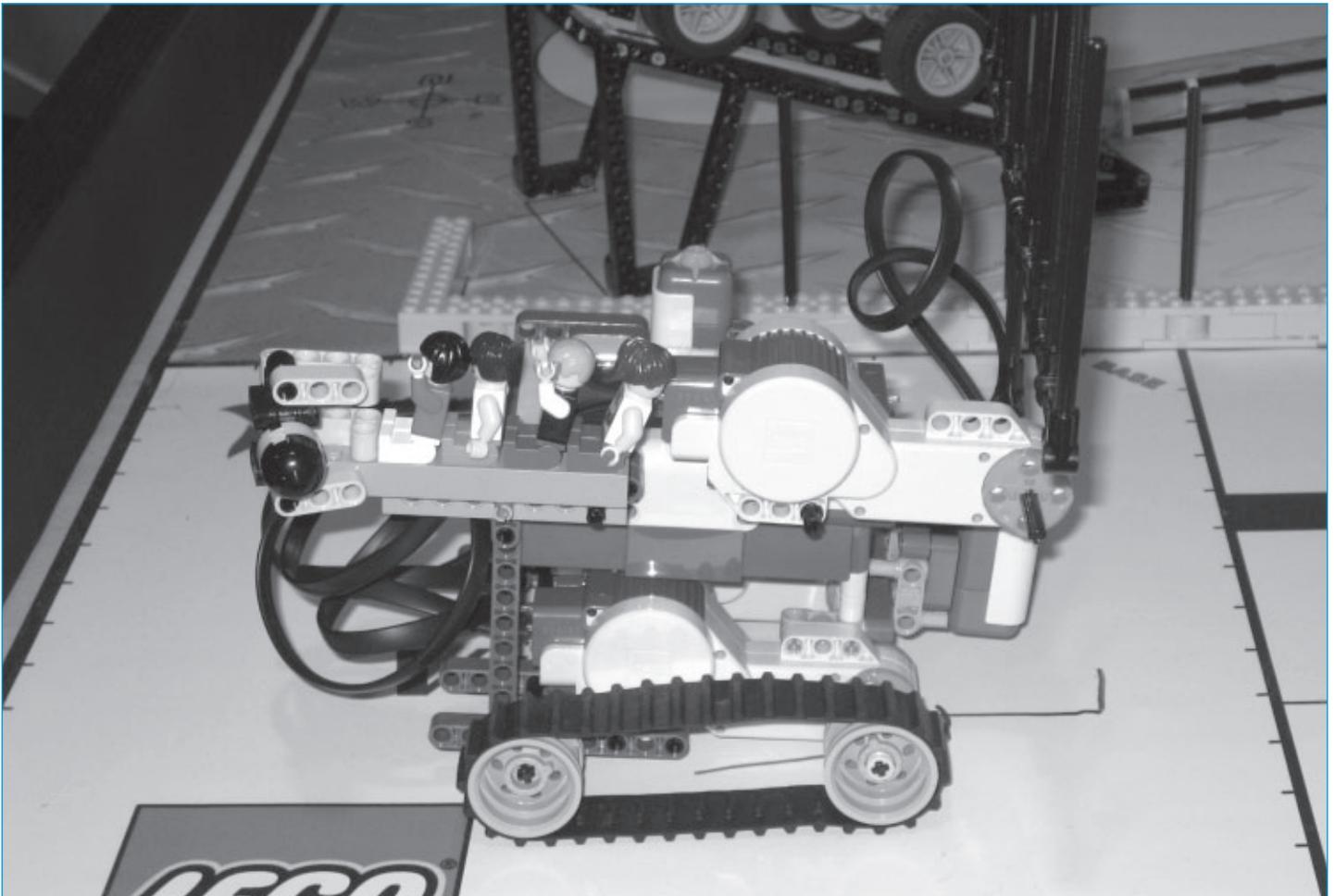
It was noted from the survey responses that it is difficult in Chester County to get to public transportation, such as the train. The team thought it would be a great idea to start a van pool to transport commuters to public transportation centers.

Based on their presentation, the team won an award in Innovative



Solutions advancing them to the regional finals. The regional finals were held on January 30th at the University of Delaware. At the regional finals the team scored 340 out of 400 possible points for the performance of their robot.

Congratulations to the entire team!



Well, the votes are in and your voice has been heard!

The Parks and Recreation Commission has tallied the votes and the top choice for the 1st movie of the 2010 Summer Movie Series is: **Planet 51**, rated PG. This animated, family-fun movie will be seen on the big screen at 8 pm on June 25th at Oakbourne Park.

Save the date!

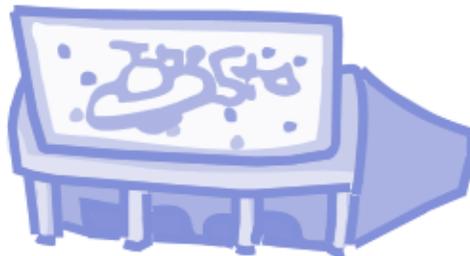
However, please keep those votes coming!

We will continue to tally the votes in order to determine the next selection for the 2nd movie in this year's series. There are still lots of great movies to vote for! If you would like to vote, log on to the township website www.westtownpa.org and select "Park & Recreation" located in the left-hand column. The "Park & Recreation" section of the website will provide you with up-to-date information on voting and all upcoming events!



Want a good reason to vote for the movie of your choice? How about some **FREE** popcorn & soda on movie night! One lucky winner from those that vote will win at each movie showing! Don't be left out and hungry. **VOTE TODAY!**

Get on to the website today to vote! Be sure to tell a few friends too!



PLANNING CALENDAR

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates

April 2nd, Good Friday

May 31st, Memorial Day

July 5th, (Independence Day)

All Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission Meetings, and Park and Recreation Meetings are held at the Township Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown. Time 7:30Pm

The Oakbourne Mansion Commission meets as needed.

April

Board of Supervisors – 5th

Planning Commission – 7th and 21st

Parks and Recreation – 13th

Friends of Oakbourne – 15th

Yard Waste Collection – 17th (Saturday)

May

Board of Supervisors – 3rd and 17th

Planning Commission – 5th and 19th

Parks and Recreation – 11th

June

Board of Supervisors – 7th and 21st

Planning Commission – 9th and 23rd

Parks and Recreation – 8th

July

Board of Supervisors – 6th (Tuesday) and 19th

Planning Commission – 7th and 21st

Parks and Recreation – 13th

Friends of Oakbourne – 15th

VOTE for your movie selection!

Please email your first three choices to parkrec@westtown.org

Aliens in the Attic (PG)

Bedtime Stories (PG)

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG)

Hannah Montana, the Movie (G)

Hotels for Dog (PG)

Imagine That (PG)

Old Dogs (PG)

Scooby Doo - the Mystery Begins (PG)

Seabiscuit (PG13)

Pride and Prejudice (PG)

SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!

Summer Movie Night #1 — Friday, June 25th, 8 p.m.

Summer Movie Night #2 — Friday, July 16th, 8 p.m.

Christmas in July — Sunday, July 25th, 9 to 11 a.m.

Summer Movie Night #3 — Friday, August 13th, 8 p.m.

3rd Annual Westtown Dog Show — Saturday, September 25th, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider volunteering to serve on the Park and Recreation Commission. We are always looking for ideas and help Email us if you're interested, or come to our next Parks & Rec meeting in the Township Building. (Call the Township Office at 610 692-1930 to confirm the date). We usually meet on on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

RECYCLING AND TRASH INFORMATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of January 2010 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations specify that all yard waste (branches, leaves, clippings) must be composted. Yard waste can only go to the composting facility at the landfill. Residents can no longer include yard waste with the regular trash collection. Westtown Township will be providing additional yard waste collections throughout the year. Once the dates are finalized they will be posted on the Township website www.westtownpa.org and in the Township Newsletter. As with leaf collection all yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or a container that can be dumped. IAs with leaf collection, all yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or an open container that can be dumped. These are State regulations. The Township risks being fined if it permits violations. Any comments or questions on this requirement should be directed to your State Representatives. They are:

Edwin B. Erickson – 610-853-4100 and Tom Killion – 610-325-1541

Westtown Township appreciates your cooperation with these new regulations.

How to Prepare Items for Recycling

Glass—Green, Brown & Clear: Bottles or Jars only. Rinse Clean. Remove lids and rings. Labels may be left on. *NO plate glass, ceramics, drinking glasses, etc.*

Plastic: Must be marked with #1 through #7 inside triangle on bottom. Rinse clean. Remove lids and discard. Labels may be left on. *NO unmarked containers or containers marked with other than #1 through #7 inside the triangle on bottom.* No antifreeze or motor oil containers.

Aluminum Beverage Cans: Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. No bottle or jar lids, no pie plates or aluminum foil. *No other aluminum items.*

Bi-Metal Cans: Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. Examples include pet food cans, soup cans, vegetable cans. *NO cans with plastic parts. NO paint or aerosol cans.*

Newspaper, Magazines, Phone Books, Junk Mail, small cardboard boxes (cereal, crackers, etc) & Office Paper: Combine in paper bag or bundle and tie.

Cardboard Boxes: Must be cut in three foot squares, tied and placed next to the recycling bin. This is necessary because of the compacting system of the recycling truck. Unfortunately if the cardboard is not prepared this way it will be taken with the regular trash. Cereal boxes and similar cardboard items may be combined with newspaper.





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*30 cubic yards
22ft long / 8ft wide / 6ft high*