

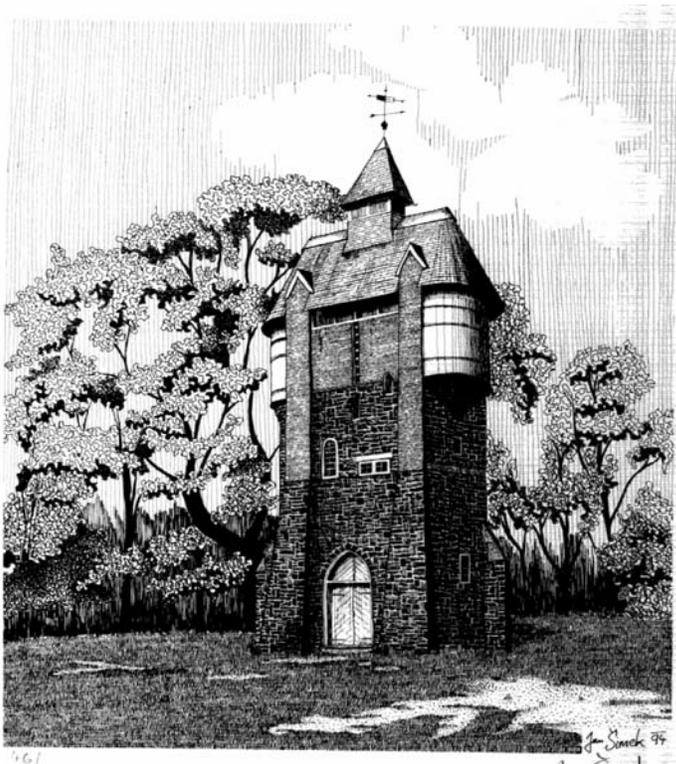
Westtown Township

1039 Wilmington Pike

P.O. Box 79

Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395

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WEST CHESTER, PA
PERMIT NO. 119



The Westtown Gazette

THE QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

From the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Thomas A. Foster, Chair

Carol R. DeWolf, Vice Chair

Charles P. Barber, Police Commissioner

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

The Westtown Gazette

Volume XIII, Issue 1

Westtown Township, County of Chester

First Quarter 2009

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

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

BEGINNING WITH THE APRIL 2009 ISSUE, THE GAZETTE WILL ACCEPT PAID ADVERTISEMENTS. PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2009 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Tentative Dates

Saturdays

April 4 CAT Pickering - Phoenixville
May 16 Owen J. Roberts Middle School
- Pottstown - No computers
Sept. 19 New Garden Maintenance Bldg.
- Landenberg - No computers
Oct. 1 Government Service Center -
West Chester

Friday

June 19 CAT Brandywine - Coatesville

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH 2009

CURBSIDE BY 7:00 AM. DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON THE TREE. PLEASE DO NOT PUT TREE IN A PLASTIC BAG AS TREES ARE TAKEN TO THE COMPOST FACILITY AT THE LANDFILL.

See Township Calendar

on Page 10

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

FIELD LIGHTING

This past year the Township Planning Commission completed a draft ordinance regulating the lighting of athletic fields. Recognizing the impact of such lighting on adjoining residential neighborhoods, the Commission crafted an ordinance which would eliminate the spillage of light onto adjacent properties. Under these regulations a neighboring resident would see the lit field but their property would be in the dark.

In considering the proposed ordinance, the Board of Supervisors is diligently working to prepare a final draft that will address the concerns of the neighbors and protect the rights of those interested in having field lighting. Recognizing that the impact will be broader than merely an issue of lighting, they are looking over other factors such as noise and traffic, to ensure that the adjoining neighborhood is not adversely affected

by any of these things.

The Board of Supervisors realizes that those involved with school athletic programs are very interested in getting lights on the fields. At the same time they know some of the residents in the area are worried about the potential negative impact of the installation of field lights. Consequently, the Board is exercising great care to protect the interests of all concerned.

BUDGET

On December 15th, 2008 the Township Board of Supervisors passed the budget for the 2009 fiscal year. The budget has both good news and bad news. To begin with the Board is looking to hold down expenditures in the coming year. The Board held the property tax at the 2008 level. At the same time costs to some of the Township's Enterprise Funds are such that it was necessary

to raise rates. Specifically, the cost of treatment of wastewater has increased, requiring a somewhat modest increase in sewer rates. In addition the cost of trash/recycling collection will increase to \$80.00/quarter. Westtown's three year contract with the hauler includes an increase each year. As the Township's costs increase the trash collection fee is set to cover this cost.

In this difficult and uncertain economic period of time, the Board will be carefully monitoring the budget, taking actions throughout the year to limit the hardships on its citizens and insure that municipal services do not suffer.

THE SMITH MANSION

The Smith Mansion, located in Oakbourne Park, is an important asset for the Westtown community. As with any older structure, there is an increasing need for repair work. At the same time, the Township's budget is being stretched to cover increasing costs in many areas while tax dollars are shrinking.

In order to deal with the needs of the Mansion, the Board of Supervisors established the Oakbourne Mansion Commission. It is the Commission's

mission to focus on the needs of the Mansion and to raise funds for the necessary repairs and improvements. The members of the Commission have been diligent in carrying out their charge.

At the request of the Mansion Commission, the Board has adopted a set of policies, rules and regulations relating the use of the Mansion. Free use is still provided to certain community related groups under certain conditions. However, the need to sched-

ule Mansion events which will generate revenue to pay for upkeep will limit the availability for such free use.

It has not been the Township's purpose to prevent certain parties from using the Mansion. Rather, the Board recognizes the need for repairs and upkeep of this valuable asset and has sought to find a way to finance this without a tax increase for this purpose.

Oakbourne Mansion Commission is Moving Forward



The Oakbourne Mansion Commission is moving forward at a rapid pace. Even though our mission is to market and raise funds for the Mansion, we have a great time doing it as you can see by our photos and we'd like to share the fun with you.

Since our inception, we've had many successful events. We held a Decorator Show House, a Gala and were on the Chester County Day tour for the first time. We've had brunches and an art show. Last year, Oakbourne Mansion had the honor of being chosen as the subject of the 2008 print and Christmas card for the ARC of Chester County.

With the economy moving at turtle speed, we're taking a cautious approach to initial activities in 2009. Besides the usual weddings, parties and corporate events the Mansion frequently hosts, we have a huge car show scheduled for June 6. This show is called "The Cars of Great Britain" and will showcase over 200 cars. We've had a sneak peek at a few of the antique Jaguars, Morgans, Triumphs and MG's that will be here

and they are spectacular.

There's also the possibility that a few classic British motorcycles will be making an appearance as well. The Oakbourne Mansion Commission is hoping to host a special fundraising event for this very special show. Stay tuned—details to follow.



In 2008, Oakbourne Mansion came so very close to making its debut on national television. After much hard work, QVC was interested in a live broadcast from Oakbourne. The Mansion was decorated in Victorian Christmas splendor before Halloween. We were able to accomplish this through the very generous donations of time, money and products from our many volunteers and businesses in the area. Oakbourne was in competition with other facilities but we'll never know if we were chosen because the sluggish economy caused QVC to cancel their visit.



We were disappointed but we don't give up easily. We've already contacted QVC about the upcoming car show. We're hoping they will consider us for a summer or Father's Day venue.

We have many events in mind for 2009. We're considering hosting several brunches as we did in 2007, or garden tours with tea, or a lecture series on history, horticulture or topics of local interest or maybe even the first annual Antiques Show at Oakbourne Mansion. It all depends on the economy and you.

If you would like to share in the fun, give us your input, ideas or suggestions, or just want to be kept in the loop, please send us your email address.

Events can pop up between newsletters. An email announcement is the only way we would have to get this information to you. You're important to us. Your email address stays with the Township and will only be used for Oakbourne Mansion activities.

If you're interested, please send your email address to Sandi

Preston at the township building at spreston@westtown.org and we will be contacting you with news and updates on the happenings at Oakbourne.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you haven't seen it, please take a look at our website at : www.oakbournemansion.org.

Happy New Year from the Oakbourne Mansion Commission,

Eva Foster
Michele Gifford



FRIENDS OF OAKBOURNE TREE DONOR PROGRAM

The Friends of Oakbourne have established a tree donor program. The goals of the tree donor/planting program are to replace dead or dying specimen trees in the park arboretum and to introduce new trees into other areas of the Oakbourne Park.

As part of this tree program, provisions have also been made to allow donations from individuals for dedicated or memorial trees to be planted in specific areas of the park and arboretum. The donor program is an ideal way to enhance the beauty of our park and to honor a special person or loved one, or to commemorate an important occasion.

Memorial/Commemorative trees are available at costs of:

\$150, \$250, \$350 or \$500.

For more information on the tree donor program or to order a tree, please contact Tom Bare at 610-399-1572 or tmbare@hotmail.com.

Fire Marshal Office

1039 Wilmington Pike

West Chester, Pa. 19382

Robert Gliem
Fire Marshal

Donald Herb
Assistant Fire Marshal



Westtown Township

Phone: 610-692-1930

Fax: 610-692-9651

WINTER SAFETY FLASH

Keep accidents from marring your winter holidays and enjoy a safe holiday season.

Many Americans search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of **wood burning stoves** and **fireplaces** has become a very common heat source but they can be a contributing factor in residential fires if not used safely. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following safety tips that can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

To use them safely:

- Be sure the fireplace is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surface and proper floor support and protection. Keep the area around the hearth or stove front clear of debris, decorations and other combustible materials.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed or FM approved.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, an unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants. Glass doors should be open when burning a fire.
- A wood stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup. Stovepipe thermometers should be installed to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper, cardboard, trash or debris to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep combustible materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house. Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside and away from your home.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They can burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

To protect the outside of your home:

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents above the chimney, flues or vents

To protect the occupants and inside of your home:

- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test them regularly and maintain fresh batteries.



Please use care and have a fire safe Winter.

**CHESTER RIDLEY CRUM WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
& HABITAT RESOURCE NETWORK OF SOUTHEAST PA**

(WILD ONES CHAPTER & NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION VOLUNTEERS)

& PENN STATE BRANDYWINE



jointly welcome

Dr. Douglas Tallamy

Nationally acclaimed speaker and author of the best seller "**Bringing Nature Home**"
Professor & Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware

“**CREATING A SANCTUARY
FOR WILDLIFE
IN YOUR GARDEN**”



Sunday, February 8th 2009

2:00pm-3:30pm

Penn State Brandywine

25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media, PA 19063

Creative ways to use native plants to control stormwater on your property will also be presented.



Preregister required: Contact CRC at crc@nni.com or 610-892-8731

For more information please see:
www.crcwatersheds.org
www.habitatresourcenetwork.org

Admission \$5, but **your municipality is sponsoring residents to attend for free.** Please check with CRC.

PARK ADVISORY GROUP ANNOUNCES 2009 SCHEDULE

Westtown Township's Parks Advisory Group is pleased to present the following 2009 events to take place at Oakbourne Park:

A Prelude to Mother's Day Old-Fashioned Victorian Tea

Sunday, May 3

Movie Nights in the Park

1st Movie Night - Friday, June 26 • Christmas in July - Saturday, July 25 • 2nd Movie Night - Friday, August 7

Best of Westtown Dog Show

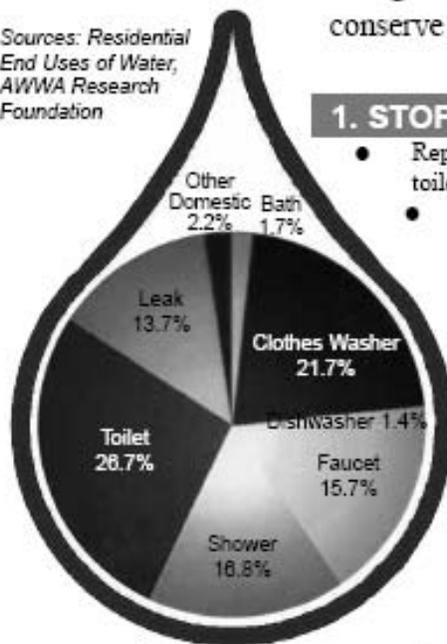
Saturday, September 26

Additional volunteers are welcome. Please email ParkRec@Westtown.org to sign up.



Water Conservation Tips

Sources: Residential End Uses of Water, AWWA Research Foundation



1. STOP LEAKS (13.7%)

- Repair leaking faucets- even the smallest drip can waste 20 gallons a day, a leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons a day
- You can check your water meter before and after work or retiring to confirm no leaks, or use a leak detector tablet in the toilet tank.

2. TOILET (26.7%)

- Refrain from using your toilet as a trash can for tissues, etc. Each flush can waste up to five gallons of water.
- If you don't have a low flow toilet, place a brick in your toilet tank.

3. FAUCET (15.7%)

- Add your food waste to the trash can instead of using the disposal. Disposals use a great deal of water and add unnecessary solids as well as nutrients to the sewer system or septic systems. These nutrients are expensive and difficult for our waste water treatment plants to remove and are detrimental to receiving streams. Better yet, start composting!
- Use a dishpan for washing dishes and cleaning vegetables.
- Keep a bottle of cold water in the refrigerator.
- Insulate hot water pipes to reduce the amount of water which must be run.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving.

4. CLOTHES WASHER (21.7%)

- Use only full loads for your washing machine or dishwasher.

5. SHOWER (16.8%)

- Install low flow aerators and shower heads.

6. OTHER (6.4%)

- Water less frequently and more deeply, and only in the morning. Consider soaker hoses.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Wash cars with a pail of soapy water and a hose with a trigger nozzle. Better yet, take your car to the car wash; they recycle the water.
- Winterize outdoor spigots. Mark the master water shut off valve in case of burst pipes.
- Cover an outdoor pool when not in use. Spread dechlorinated pool water on grassy areas, never to streets or storm sewers.

Sources: Chester County Water Resources Authority, Aqua America, AWWA Research Foundation.
Compiled by Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, June 2008.



CRIME ALERT IN RESPONSE TO RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

The Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department is actively investigating a series of residential burglaries in the Townships of Westtown, East Goshen and Thornbury. Police believe that more than one group is targeting our area. The majority of the burglaries have occurred during the daytime hours when the homeowners are away from the home and a few have occurred during the late night hours. During other investigations police have learned that the individuals completing the burglaries will approach the home and knock to determine if anyone is home. When the door is answered, the individual will normally ask for someone who does not live there before leaving. You should immediately call police if this happens and attempt to get a vehicle description and license number of the vehicle that leaves the area. When there is no response to the knock, individuals will force entry into the home through a door or window.

The police department is urging our residents to remain vigilant and follow these prevention tips.

1. Immediate call 911 when you see suspicious activity
2. Lock all doors, windows and vehicles in the driveway
3. Have interior lights on timer if away, motion sensor lights on the exterior
4. Develop a rapport with your neighbors, let trusted neighbors know when your away
5. Install and use your burglar alarm systems, post your property with alarm system placards
6. Arrange to have your lawn maintained and snow removed
7. Don't allow the delivery of mail or newspapers when on vacation
8. Store valuables in an unlikely location in the home and not the master bedroom
9. Keep a detailed inventory of valuable possessions including make, model and serial number
10. Mark valuables with an engraving tool
11. Don't leave valuable items or property in plain view in your parked vehicle

REMEMBER THE THREE L'S OF CRIME PREVENTION: LIGHTS, LOCKS AND THE LAW

If you are the victim of burglary or arrive home to find an open door or window, please follow these tips.

1. Do not enter- the individual(s) may still be inside
2. Use a neighbors phone/cell phone to immediately call 911 before anyone else
3. Do not touch anything or clean-up until police respond and process the scene for evidence
4. Record the make, model and license plate of any suspicious vehicles in the area
5. Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons in the area

John M. Dumond - Chief of Police

BEHIND THE BADGE

WESTTOWN-EAST GOSHEN OFFICER CORPORAL DAVE LEAHY

Corporal Dave Leahy is a 9 year veteran of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department and is currently assigned to the Patrol Division. Prior to joining the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department, Corporal Leahy served 4 years as a Police Officer with the West Chester University Police Department. Cpl. Leahy serves as one of the Police Department's Field Training Officers, is a member of the Police Bike Unit, Taser Instructor and is a member of the Chester County Major Incident Response Team. Cpl. Leahy was named the Department's Officer of the Year in 2005. Cpl. Leahy is married with a 7 year old son and 3 year old daughter. He enjoys running, weight lifting and is an avid Phillies and Eagles fan.



PLANNING CALENDAR

Christmas Tree Pickup – Saturday January 17th.

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates

- January 1st, New Years day**
- January 19th, Martin Luther King Day**
- February 16th, President’s Day**
- April 10th, Good Friday**

Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day are not holidays for A. J. Blosenski. If your normal trash/recycling collection is on Monday your trash will be picked up on those days.

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

January

Board of Supervisors – Reorganizational Meeting January 5th

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting – 5th and 19th

Planning Commission – 7th and 21st

Friends of Oakbourne – 8th, Oakbourne Mansion Meeting Room (7:00PM)

February

Board of Supervisors – 2nd and 17th

Planning Commission – 4th and 18th

March

Board of Supervisors – 2nd and 16th

Planning Commission – 4th and 18th

Friends of Oakbourne – 12th, Oakbourne Mansion Meeting Room (7:00PM)

April

Board of Supervisors – 6th and 20th

Planning Commission – 8th and 22nd

Friends of Oakbourne – 9th, Oakbourne Mansion Meeting Room (7:00PM)

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. <i>NO plate glass, ceramics, drinking glasses, etc.</i>
Plastic: Must be marked with #1 through #7 inside triangle on bottom. Rinse clean. Remove lids and discard. Labels may be left on. <i>NO unmarked containers or containers marked with other than #1 through #7 inside the triangle on bottom.</i> 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. <i>No other aluminum items.</i>
Bi-Metal Cans: Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. Examples include pet food cans, soup cans, vegetable cans. <i>NO cans with plastic parts. NO paint or aerosol cans.</i>
Newspaper, Magazines, Phone Books, Junk Mail, small cardboard boxes (cereal, crackers, etc) & Office Paper: Combine in paper bag or bundle and tie.
Yard Waste (excluding leaves): May be included in regular pickup. Bags of grass not to exceed 50 lbs. Branches acceptable in tied bundles no longer than 3’ in length.
Cardboard Boxes: Must be cut in <u>three foot squares</u> , 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.

RECYCLING AND TRASH INFORMATION

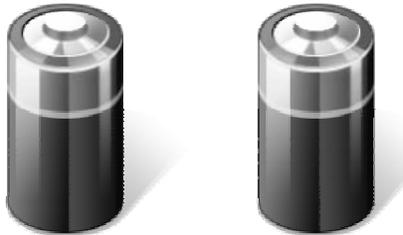
What do I do with leftover paint?

Donate leftovers to Habitat for Humanity (located in Caln Township (610-466-1890), schools, or theater groups. What cannot be reused can be solidified by removing the lid and letting it dry out, or by absorbing with sawdust or kitty litter. The solidified paint, can, and lid can be wrapped securely in a plastic bag and put out in your trash bag. Oil based paint should be taken to a Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) collection site.



What do I do with old batteries?

Many jewelry stores recycle button batteries. Any store selling automotive batteries must, by Pennsylvania law, take back the old ones. Household and appliance batteries can be taken to Lowe's, Office Depot, Target, Best Buy, Home Depot, Cingular & Staples - all stores. Other batteries can be placed in the trash.



How do I dispose of my health care injection needles?

Talk with your doctor to return needles or to obtain a special container. If you still must dispose of them in your trash, carefully place them in a sturdy old plastic detergent container with a screw on cap, taped securely, bagged and then place in the trash. Be sure NOT to recycle this container!

How do I dispose of Styrofoam?

You can recycle Styrofoam peanuts at the UPS Stores at Parkway Center and Market Place Shopping Center. Please make sure they are and not mixed with any other material.

How do I dispose of plastic grocery bags?

Rather than toss empty plastic bags into the trash, please keep them all in a plastic bag. Then you can take them to a food market

Acme, Genuardi's, or Giant for example, even Walmart. Inside the main entrances to these stores are barrels in which you may deposit all your plastic bags. Don't forget to recycle the bags your newspaper comes in.

How do I dispose of old drugs?

One of the most common ways drugs get into the water supply is by leftover medications being flushed down the toilet. In order to make water safer for humans as well as for fish and other wildlife follow these simple suggestions.



Stop flushing unused medicines. We use to be instructed to flush them, but not anymore. It could adversely affect the environment.

Crush solid medications and dissolve them in water; dilute liquid medications in water. Then mix the solution with kitty litter, sawdust or another material that a child or pet would be less likely to find attractive. Place it in a bag that you seal and place it in the garbage.

Get answers from your pharmacists. Ask for more tips on proper disposal of prescription medications and whether your pharmacy accepts unused medication.

Small Load Drop-off

The new and improved small load drop off site at the Lanchester Landfill was completed in the Spring of 2007. This facility was made more user friendly, more accessible and now accepts more items. Drivers can stay in their vehicle during the whole transaction and the process can be completed in a shorter period of time. The number of items the landfill currently accepts for recycling has been increased to include: mixed metals, FREON- free appliances, clean unpainted drywall, clean styrofoam, asphalt shingles, computers/electronics. There is a fee for appliance FREON removal and the disposal of TVs. A compost demonstration park has also been added. The Lanchester Landfill is located in Honeybook on Route 322.

The Chester County Solid Waste Authority website www.chestercountyswa.org can assist residents with recycling questions they may have.

A.J. BLOSENSKI, INC.

Trash & Recycling Service

A.J. Blosenski, Inc. specializes in prompt deliveries, efficient and personalized service to meet the needs of our customers at all times.

For complete waste removal services call, **610-942-2707**

Fax: 610-942-2495



Service Includes:

Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Construction
Special Pick-Up • Roll Off Container Service



ajblosenski@nni.com • www.ajblosenski.com