



WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Report To The Citizens Of Westtown Township
From the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Manager's Report - Update on the Township's ACT 537 Plan

There has been a lot of misinformation recently regarding the Township's ACT 537 planning. Below is an accurate account of where we are in the approval process.

Under a consent order from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), the Township was required to undertake sewage management planning for all areas of the Township not served by public sewer. The Act 537 Plan the Township submitted to PA DEP in 2012 provided that all lots not currently on public sewer would be monitored under a Township On-Lot Management (OLM) Program. PA DEP approved the OLM program outlined in the Township's plan, with the exception of the West Wynn I area. DEP informed the Township that a special planning study would need to be undertaken to further examine whether the OLM program alone would be an acceptable method of addressing sewage system conditions in that area.

The Township OLM program entails an initial inspection of each on-lot system and regular maintenance of that system by a qualified contractor hired by the property owner. Each property owner would be required to submit the results of the inspection and maintenance to the Township. The Township would then be required to provide the OLM data to DEP annually for evaluation to determine if there are areas in the Township for which the continuation of an on lot program would not be appropriate. The Township would have to submit a report no later than July 1, 2023 (10 years), but PA DEP may require action earlier if the OLM data indicates it is warranted. DEP's acceptance of our OLM program is no guarantee that the on lot program will continue in any neighborhood for an indefinite period of time.

After the PA DEP denied the OLM plan alone as a satisfactory means to address sewage conditions in the West Wynn I area, the Township drafted a Special Study wherein those properties would be monitored under an OLM program for a shorter period of time (3 years). The Township would collect data to identify where any failing systems in that area exist and determine the likelihood that any failed systems could be repaired, obviating the need to extend public sewer. The Special Study also stipulates that the Township would concurrently monitor its public sewer infrastructure and evaluate options relative to the extension of public sewer in West Wynn I. If this Special Study is approved by PA DEP, the Township would make an updated report of its findings in October, 2016.

Westtown is finalizing the West Wynn I Special Study, which must be submitted to DEP by October 7, 2013. PA DEP will then have up to 180 days to review and act upon the Special Study, at which time it may take one of three actions. First, it could accept the plan. If so, the residents of West Wynn I would be under the Township's OLM program for the duration of that study. The data collected would indicate what happens after the period of the study. Second, PA DEP could accept the proposal, but with modifications. For example, DEP could direct that the study period be for a shorter time. A third option would be that PA DEP rejects the Special Study plan. If they do, the Township will work with DEP to identify the best course of action for the West Wynn I area.

The Township is finalizing the details of the OLM program. It is expected that this program will be ready to be implemented toward the end of 2013. Please refer to the Township website or contact the office with any questions or concerns.

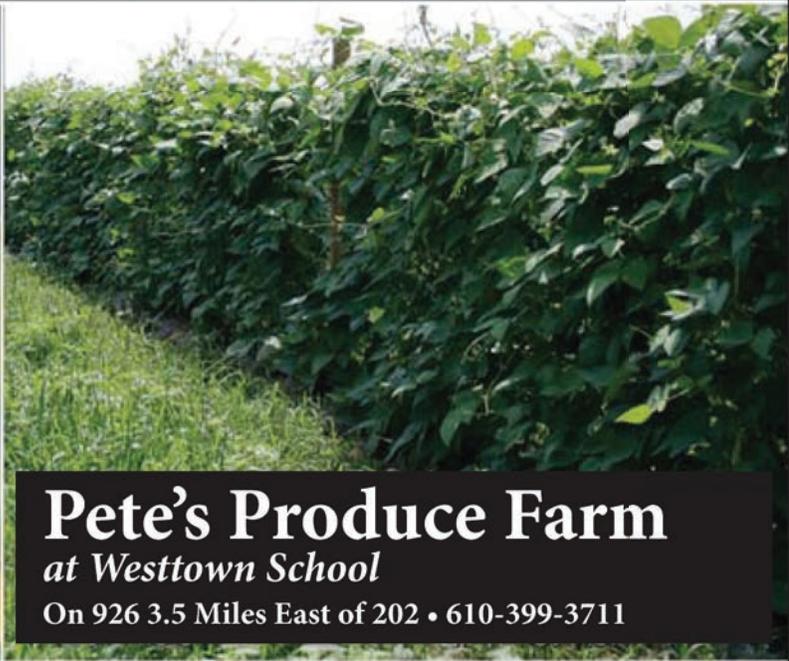
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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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Charles P. Barber, *Police Commissioner*

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

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

(Comments for the Manager & Board of Supervisors) - supervisors@westtown.org



CHESTER COUNTY USEFUL CONTACTS & PHONE NUMBERS

Government Services Center - 601 Westtown Road

Chester County Court House – 313 E. Market St, 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 – 610-344-6692

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, Pennsylvania 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

email: eerickson@pasen.gov

State House District – 168 District

Tom H. Killion – Local 610-325-1541 – State 717-772-0855

Email: tkillion@pahousegop.gov

U. S. Senator

Pat Toomey – Local- 1-215-241-1090 – Federal – 1-202-224-4254

www.toomey.senate.gov

Robert Casey – Local –1- 215- 405-9660 – Federal –1- 202-228-0604

www.casey.senate.gov

Congressional District – 6th District

James Gerlach – Local 610-594-1415 – Federal – 1-202-225-4315

www.gerlach.house.gov

BULLETIN BOARD:

Household Hazardous Waste Event. There will be a collection on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road. Residents may drop off items between 9:00am and 3:00pm. For details on accepted items, please go to the Trash & Recycling page on our website, www.westtownpa.org or contact the Chester County Solid Waste Authority at 610-273-3771 ext. 226.

Building Department Changes. Building permit inspections and Use and Occupancy permits are now being performed by a third party. Please allow at least two weeks for scheduling your inspection.

Pay Sewer and Trash Bills Online. Westtown residents can use Visa, Master Card, and Discover to pay their utility bills online. There is no fee for this service. Simply go to our website and click on Pay Bills Online.

Email Alerts. To be added to our electronic notification of Township meetings, events, and other important news, please email maillist@westtown.org. Please put “Mailing List” in the subject line.

Website. Consult the News and Information page of the Township website for notices of meeting cancellations, special events, press releases from the Westtown East Goshen Police, and other alerts.

Save paper! If you would like to receive the Westtown Gazette electronically, send an email to info@westtown.org and request to be put on the electronic delivery list.

**For Police, Fire, & Medical
EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911**

**For NON-EMERGENCIES,
dial 610-692-5100**

www.westtownpa.org 3

Westtown East Goshen Police Department Promotions

The Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department (WEGO) recently promoted two officers. Officer Jorge Rodriguez was promoted from part time to full time Patrol Officer. Prior to joining WEGO, Rodriguez was an officer for the West Chester University Police Department. His future plans include getting a college degree and joining the department's Traffic Safety Unit. In his spare time, Officer Rodriguez enjoys attending baseball and football games, and spending time with family and friends.



Officer Jorge Rodriguez and Sergeant Steve Wassell

Officer Stephen Wassell, a 21 year veteran of the department, was promoted to sergeant. Sergeant Wassell has served on the Bike Patrol Unit, and in the Criminal Investigation Division. He also served as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) instructor, and is one of the department's Field Training Officers. Sergeant Wassell was honored with the Officer of the Year Award in 1998, and the Award for Valor in 1999. Sergeant Wassell enjoys family time with his wife, Elaine, their two daughters. His hobbies include website design, and he recently revamped WEGO's website, www.westtownpolice.org.

Camp Elder Historic Marker Dedication Ceremony

A Historic Marker for Camp Elder Civil War Camp was unveiled on Sept. 7th at Oakbourne Road and Trellis Lane. From left to right: Dave Walter, treasurer of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Roundtable, which sponsored the event; Westtown Supervisor Tom Haws; Mike McDonald, President of the Wild Goose Farms Home Owners Association; and Karen Galle, representing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which will maintain the marker. The Rustin High Golden Knight Band led a parade from the Oakbourne Mansion to the site.



Photos Needed For Westtown History Book

Arcadia Publishers is interested in working with the Westtown Township Historical Commission to produce an “Images of America” book on Westtown. Many of the surrounding communities have already been featured in this popular photo book series. A minimum of 180 vintage photographs are needed before the Commission can proceed with the project. A number of photographs of our township’s historic residential structures are in the township files, but not nearly enough. Additional vintage photos will be culled from the extensive collection at the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester. However, the Commission must depend on our long-time residents to provide photos from their personal collections in order to round out the human interest aspects of our community.

The publishers are interested in: elementary class photos and notable school events; vintage photos showing businesses that once existed or current businesses when they were under construction or just opened; photos of meetings, community, athletic events, and award ceremonies sponsored by groups within the Township; old photos of our churches and significant religious events; photos of the trains, trolleys, and old buses and cars that rolled through Westtown; photos of housing developments under construction or when they were new; vintage photos of West Chester Pike, Wilmington Pike, Street Road, and other roads; anything along the lines of fire trucks fighting a major blaze in the township; creeks, mills, barns, orchards, dams and other scenes that have vanished from the present day. If the photo shows a pre-2000 scene of interest, there’s a good chance we may use it.

If you have photos you think may be “book worthy,” and will permit the Commission to use them, then we would love to hear from you no later than Nov. 1st. Contact the Historical Commission at HistoricWesttown@verizon.net and describe your photos.

A Brief History of Westtown School

Westtown School has been part of Westtown Township for over 200 years, situated with Street Road to the south, Westtown Road to the west, and Shady Grove Way and Walnut Hill Road to the east. The school was founded by members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends as a boarding school for Quaker children that would encourage spiritual formation and provide a useful education. The school opened in 1799 and is regarded as the oldest, continuously operating coeducational boarding school in the country. The school took its name from its location in Chester County, the township marked as “West Town” and “West-Towne” on two early maps of Pennsylvania by surveyor Thomas Holme, appointed by William Penn. Today, as an independent college-preparatory school, Westtown welcomes over 600 preK through 12th grade students to its day and boarding program from Chester County and other area residents, as well as from around the country and the world.

Westtown School still occupies the original 600 acres purchased in 1794 from James and Eleanor Gibbons. The deed for this purchase is housed in the school archives. The Gibbons farm attracted Yearly Meeting members for several reasons: approximately 325 acres of virgin timber, plenty of acreage for farming, a water supply (Chester Creek) and the site’s proximity to Philadelphia. At that time, it was a full day’s stage ride from the city to Westtown, a safe distance from the influences and illnesses of the city, but still reachable in a day. The vast expanse of land for the school would also expose the students to the workings of nature in the fields, woods and streams, making feasible the study of the natural sciences, an important part of a Quaker education. The curriculum also included reading, mathematics, geography, penmanship, and other useful subjects such as book-keeping, surveying, and sewing.

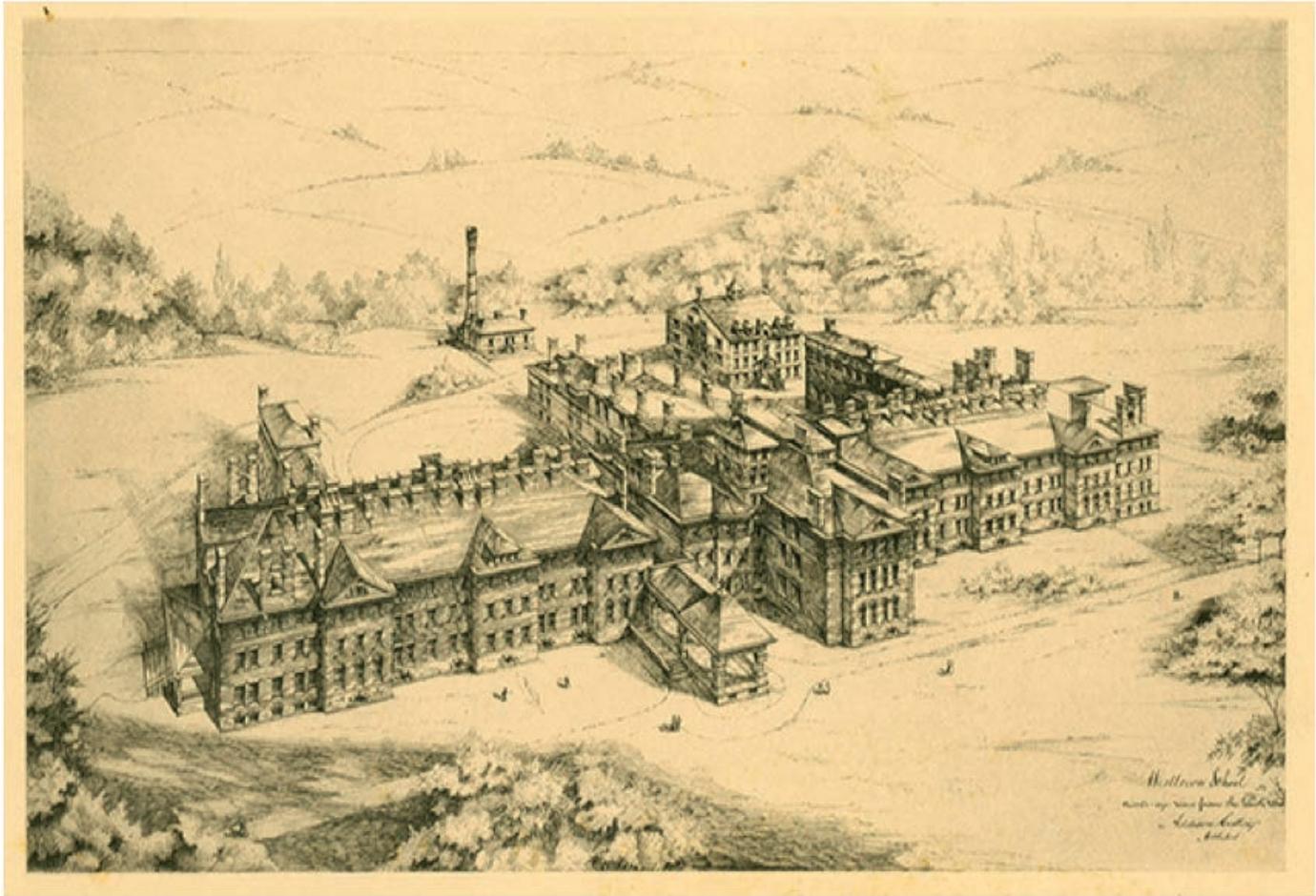
Westtown’s first main building was constructed with bricks made from clay on the farm and timber from the forest. A mill race was created on Chester Creek for a saw mill which cut lumber for a new barn in 1794, and then a “small building” for the “sawyer” was erected in

1797 near the mill. The sawyer’s home still stands in the north woods of the campus as a faculty home. That same year a springhouse was erected; later it was enlarged to house the dairy operation of the school’s farm. It remains today along Westtown Road as a faculty home. A grist-mill built in 1801 along Chester Creek no longer stands, but the house built for the miller, also along Westtown Road, is still maintained by the school. These are a few of the many buildings on Westtown’s campus that tell the story of the school’s past and present.

Westtown’s current main building was designed by Philadelphia architect Addison Hutton and was completed in 1888. Its rooftop has 98 chimneys! Industrial Hall, an 1869 classroom building estimated to weigh 800 tons, was moved to make room for the new main building. Over the course of 21 days, Industrial Hall was pulled along a track of timbers by means of a windlass and a combination of pulleys, with the power furnished by six horses. Photographs in the school archives document this amazing feat which was witnessed by students attending the 1885 summer session. Industrial Hall remains in use for upper and middle school classes.

While not in the classroom, students of all generations at Westtown have enjoyed a range of outdoor recreational activities. The exhilarating - but sometimes dangerous - experience of sledding down an icy track on large, wooden bobsleds made an impression on a young Westtown student in the 1850’s named Samuel L. Allen. As an adult, he designed a safer, steerable sled and was granted a patent for his invention in 1889 - the Flexible Flyer. Ice skating was favored, too - first on a frozen pond, and later on Westtown Lake, constructed in 1912. The 16 acre lake is used in all seasons for outdoor fun while also providing another campus area for environmental study.

Mary Brooks, Archivist, Westtown School



Westtown School - 1885

Tour Historic Westtown School - Sunday, October 13, 2013

Sponsored By Westtown School And The Westtown Township Historical Commission

Please join us for a walking tour on Sunday, October 13, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, as we explore part of the campus and share more stories of the places, people and program of Westtown School over the past 200 years. (Did you know Johnny's Way is named for someone connected to Westtown School?) The tour will begin with a short presentation (inside) followed by a walk through the upper part of campus mainly along paved, flat surfaces. Children are welcome, but must remain with the group.

The Number Of Participants Will Be Limited. You Must Register In Advance At:

HistoricWesttown@verizon.net by October 10th. Give your name, street address, and number of participants. Parking instructions will be sent to those who register for this tour.

Pilates and Yoga Classes Offered

Grab your yoga mat and water bottle and join the Westtown Township Health and Fitness Program! Starting the first week in October, Parks and Recreation will be offering morning and evening Pilates and Yoga classes at the Oakbourne Mansion. Each eight week session is affordably priced at \$70. Classes will be given by certified instructors.



Pilates: Mondays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, October 7 - December 2
Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 am, October 8 - December 10 (no class 11/5)
Yoga: Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:30 am, October 9 - December 4
Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, October 9 - December 4



Classes will not be held the week of Thanksgiving (11/25). Visit the Parks and Recreation page on the Township website (<http://www.westtownpa.org/parks-and-recreation.php>) for registration forms.

Join us for the 4th Annual Winter Festival

Sunday, December 1st, 3-5 pm
Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road



Music: by a special guest who likes to wear red, has a white beard, and likes to make lists!

Arts & Crafts: Make your own ornaments & more!

Games: Pin the nose on Rudolf, spin the dreidel, & more!

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Friends of Oakbourne News

Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

As part of the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) tree dedication program, an 18 foot high sugar maple tree (*Acer saccharum* 'Green Mountain') was planted near the playground and pavilion area of Oakbourne Park during the month of August. This tree was dedicated by Stephanie Koch and Ethan Rodgers in memory of their grandparents. Stephanie and Ethan will be using Oakbourne Park and Mansion for their mid-September wedding and wanted to have a remembrance of their marriage day in the form of a dedicated tree. As this tree grows and matures, it will provide some much needed shade for children and parents using the park's playground area which is currently devoid of any shade trees; this sugar maple will eventually reach a height of 50-60 feet and have a 45-50 foot spread. In addition to shade, the sugar maple will provide spectacular color in the fall. In the future FoO intends to strategically plant at least two other dedicated trees in the playground area for shade purposes. FoO would like to thank Westtown Roadmaster Mark Gross and his staff for helping with the delivery and planting of this large tree.

The Friends of Oakbourne would also like to thank friends and family of Christy Bare and Dan McMains for over \$500 in donations in honor of their June wedding which was performed in front of the Oakbourne water tower. FoO intends to use these funds for future park improvements such as a park bench and/or needed shrubs or trees.

FoO's tree dedication program allows interested individuals or groups to donate trees to not only enhance the beauty of our park but also to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion. Please contact Tom Bare (ymbare@hotmail.com ; 610-399-1572) for more information regarding this program.

The next meeting of the Friends of Oakbourne will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday evening, October 17, 2013 in the Dunning Room of the Oakbourne Mansion. Please join us if you have an interest in preserving and enhancing the beauty of our gem of a park.



Two views of the recently planted dedicated Sugar Maple tree

Public Works Report

Despite delays caused by one of the wettest summers on record, the 2013 road program was completed significantly under budget. The Township replaced 7200 linear feet of curb and repaved 2.5 miles of road.

In addition, a thirty year old stormwater pipe on Kolbe Lane was repaired to alleviate drainage issues causing sink holes on E. Pleasant Grove Road. Re-lining the pipe eliminated the need for surface excavation and relocation of existing utilities above the stormwater pipe.

The Township's landmark water tower at Oakbourne Park is undergoing a much needed facelift. The brick and stone on the north face were repointed and the south façade will be done in the spring. Deteriorated framing was removed from the cupola windows and replaced with maintenance free components. Extra bricks from the project were used to make repairs on the carriage house.



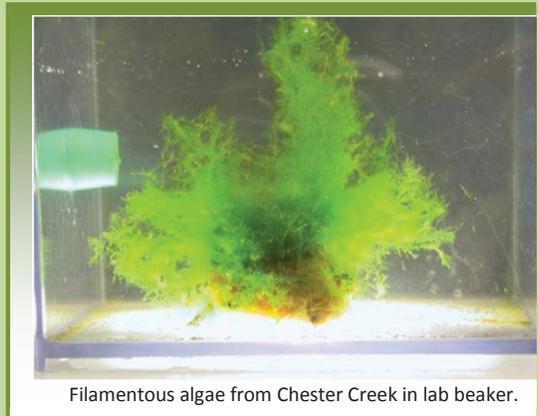
Understanding the link between fertilizer and stream health

By John Davis, PhD, PE, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Widener University

Natural aquatic environments thrive in a fragile balance between nutrient supply and algal growth. Algae form the base of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems by utilizing sunlight and nutrients (carbon dioxide, nitrogen and phosphorus) to build algal biomass through photosynthesis. The algae then become food for other aquatic organisms including bacteria, insects, and fish. Balanced natural aquatic environments support diverse populations of beneficial organisms from algae up through fish species.

If the supply of nutrients exceeds natural conditions, a chain of complex chemical, biological and physical reactions may begin which usually degrades the natural balance of an aquatic ecosystem. Scientists refer to this process as eutrophication. **Some of the localized symptoms of eutrophication are:**

- **Daytime pH levels may reach levels greater than 9.0, leading to toxic conditions;**
- **Nighttime levels of dissolved oxygen, which fish depend on for respiration, may become critically low;**
- **Prolonged periods of depleted oxygen may occur at the end of an algal bloom caused by the decay of dead algae; and**
- **Prolific growth of filamentous nuisance algae, which degrades physical habitat and hurts beneficial algae such as diatoms.**



Filamentous algae from Chester Creek in lab beaker.



Filamentous algae covering stream bottom.

Once nutrients enter a stream, they tend to remain in the aquatic environment and can be transported to estuaries and coastal waters where eutrophication can have major impacts on highly valued recreational waters, beaches, and fisheries.

Sources of excess nutrients include septic systems, farm animals, and soil erosion, but the one most easily controlled by homeowners is the amount and type of fertilization of their lawns.

What you can do to reduce the impact of fertilization on our waterways:

1. **Select a "slow release" form of nitrogen** which takes longer to break down in the soil and is less likely to leach out in the first rain.
2. **Recycle your grass clippings.** Leaving grass clippings on your lawn can meet between 25% and 50% of your fertilizer needs.
3. **Limit the frequency of your fertilization** to once or twice a year, preferably in the fall, and avoid fertilization in the early spring.
4. **Request a fertilizer that is phosphorus-free** unless a soil test determines that phosphorus is lacking in your soil. A sample of your soil can be mailed to Penn State Extension and analyzed for a nominal charge.

This message is brought to you by your municipality through the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association MS4 Stormwater Partnerships.

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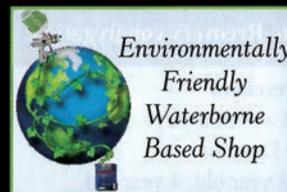
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Township Scheduled Meetings & Events

September, 2013

21 - Community Yard Sale
23 - Board of Supervisors
26 - Historical Commission

October, 2013

7, 21 - Board of Supervisors
8 - Parks & Recreation
9, 23 - Planning Commission
10 - Open Space Task Force
12 - Yard Waste Pickup
24 - Historical Commission
26 - Yard Waste Pickup

November, 2013

4, 18 - Board of Supervisors
6, 20 - Planning Commission
9 - Yard Waste Pickup
12 - Parks & Recreation
21 - Historical Commission
28, 29 - Township Office closed

December, 2013

1 - Winter Festival
2, 16 - Board of Supervisors
4, 18 - Planning Commission
10 - Parks & Recreation
14 - Yard Waste Pickup
19 - Historical Commission
25, 26 - Township Office Closed

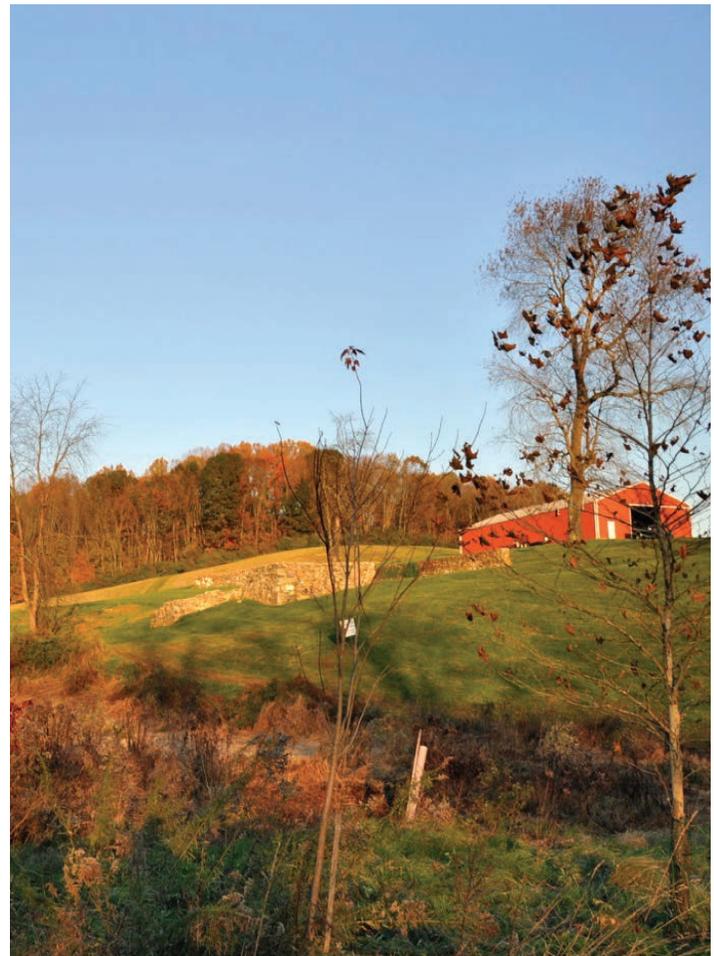
All Board of Supervisors (7:30pm),
Historical Commission (6pm), and
Planning Commission (7:30pm) meetings
are held at the Township Municipal Building,
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown.

Parks and Recreation Meetings and events are held at
Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road,
Westtown at 7:00pm.

Township Offices will be closed Nov. 28 & 29,
and December 25 & 26.

News from the Okehocking Nature Center – Black Friday turns Green!

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 29th from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm when you can enjoy a post-holiday stroll in the Okehocking Preserve plus music on the porch and hospitality at the Nature Center's Farmhouse. This free family event offers welcome relief from the shopping frenzy of the Thanksgiving weekend. Popular entertainer Mike Madigan will be back with his folk songs and interactive percussion that has brought warmth and cheer to this event for the past two years. Nature Center volunteers will be leading groups on nature walks to explore the features of the 180 acre Preserve. Enter at the Route 3 driveway and follow parking signs. More at www.okehockingnaturecenter.org



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.

Paper:

Newspaper, Magazines, Phone Books, Junk Mail, small cardboard boxes (cereal, crackers, etc) & Office Paper: Must be in a paper bag or bundled and tied. DO NOT COMINGLE LOOSELY with other recyclables, or your recycling will not be collected.

Yard Waste/Leaves:

Cannot be placed in the regular trash & only collected on scheduled days. Must be in paper bags or in a container that can be dumped. Branches must be three feet in length and tied. Yard Waste collection dates are posted on the Township website www.westtownpa.org, in the Township Gazette, and on your utility bills.

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.

2013 Trash & Recycling Information

Holiday Pickup Schedule: Trash will not be collected on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For Monday pickups, trash and recycling will be collected the Saturday before the holiday; Thursday pickups will be collected the Saturday after the holiday.

Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection: As of January 24, 2013, Pennsylvania law prohibits the disposal of electronic waste in the regular trash. Visit www.chestercountyswa.org for other e-waste collection events scheduled throughout the county.

Large Item Collection: Bulk items will be picked up on the last collection date of the month. You are allowed to put out three large items, such as appliances without Freon and furniture. Construction debris (shingles, drywall, lumber, etc.) will not be collected. If you are not sure about the disposal of a bulk item please contact the Township.

Freecycle: Do you have an item that you no longer need? Consider joining the Freecycle movement. The mission of Freecycle is to keep usable items out of our landfills by offering them to people in your community via an online forum. For more information, visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChesterCntyPAFreecycle/>.

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Paid For By The Committee To Re-Elect Judge Kraut Alex Silow, Esq. Treasurer