



WESTTOWN GAZETTE

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

Manager's Report - Winter, 2013

By now, residents with on-lot sewage systems have received the public education package on the Township's recently adopted On-Lot Sewage Management Program (SMP). As many of you know, the SMP is part of our Act 537 Plan, approved by the Department of Environmental Protection in June. The SMP is designed to help residents with on-lot sewage systems avoid problems that can result from poorly maintained systems. The Board of Supervisors, township engineers, and staff have worked to make the implementation of this program run as smoothly as possible. Please refer to the Township website or contact the office with any questions.



Photo by Evan Gross

New Faces

January brings the "changing of the guard" as the Township bids a warm farewell to retiring supervisor, Charlie Barber, and welcomes Michael (Mike) DiDomenico. Mike hopes to foster an open and transparent government, with prudent fiscal reform and responsibility. Mike and his wife, Kathy, have been Chester County residents for 35 years, living in Westtown since 1985. Prior to retiring in 2003, Mike spent 35 years in public education. He and Kathy now enjoy travel and riding motorcycles. He also remains active playing racquetball, softball, golfing, hunting, fishing, and restoring muscle cars.

The Township also welcomes Chris Patriarca, Jr. to our team, working in Planning and Zoning. Chris will be following in the footsteps of Elaine Adler, who will retire at the end of March, after 38 years of service to the township. Chris hails from Alabama, and recently moved to the area with his wife, Ashley, who is an English professor at West Chester University. Having worked as a planner for Roanoke County, VA for the past seven years, Chris is looking forward to guiding residents through the zoning approval process. Chris is an avid baseball and Alabama football fan, and spends much of his free time traveling and visiting new places.

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

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Carol R. DeWolf

Mike DiDomenico

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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 – 9th District

Dominic F. Pileggi – Local 610-358-5783 – State 717-787-4712

email: dpileggi@pasen.gov

State House – 156th District

Dan Truitt – Local 610-696-4990 – State 717-260-6164

Email: dtruitt@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:

On-Lot Sewage Management Program Fee.

Residents with on-lot sewer systems will be charged the first quarterly installment of their \$100 annual sewer fee on their January trash bill.

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**

THE TROLLEY LINE THROUGH WESTTOWN

By Dave Walter, Westtown Township Historical Commission Chairman

Few of us were privileged to ride, or to even remember, the fast trolleys of the Red Arrow Lines which zipped along the old West Chester Pike. Cutting across the northeast corner of Westtown Township, they ran 19 miles from the 69th Street Terminal in Upper Darby to West Chester, in the era when wagons and then automobiles could not make as fast a journey.

In 1848, the road from Philadelphia to West Chester was a muddy, bumpy trail running through sparsely populated farm country. Farmers and merchants, wanting a better way to get their goods to and from market, formed the Philadelphia and West Chester Turnpike Road Company.

By 1852, the road was planked to Newtown Square, and later improved with stone. It was initially profitable as more and more goods moved to Philadelphia which was, in 1865, the fourth largest city in the world and had 600,000 inhabitants. Beyond Newtown Square, the road remained a muddy or dusty path, sometimes unusable due to weather conditions.

Along came a man with a dream: John Shimer, an iron and steel merchant in Philadelphia, who had grown up along the Pike in Castle Rock, just west of Newtown Square. His dream was to build a railroad along the Pike to West Chester, then a market town of 10,000 citizens. West Chester was already served by two railroad connections to Philadelphia, but travel was expensive. Shimer overcame financing difficulties, legal battles with the Pennsylvania Railroad, and unsuccessful experimentation with steam-powered “dummies.” On December 17, 1898, the first trolleys of the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company reached the terminus at Gay and Adams St. in West Chester.



Sixty Five Years Ago: Red Arrow high-speed trolley #86 headed for Upper Darby, on August 18, 1948. The trolley is in the Chester Road passing siding alongside West Chester Pike near Manley Road in Westtown Township. The tract of land in the background is now the Marketplace Shopping Center.

Photo courtesy of Railroad Avenue Enterprises

The construction company, Pepper & Register, had been paid in traction company bonds.

They enlisted the help of Page, Allison and Penrose to sell the bonds. The job of selling the bonds fell to twenty four year old Merritt Taylor. Taylor was an ambitious young man of Quaker stock, born in New Jersey and educated at Penn Charter School and the Westtown School. Taylor saw the possibilities of a vast traction empire, coupled with real estate ventures, in Philadelphia's western suburbs, and he and other investors took control of the P&WCT.

Taylor's empire, later the Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company (Red Arrow Lines), grew with lines to Ardmore, Sharon Hill, and Media. The track to West

Chester was constantly improved, faster and more modern trolleys were acquired, and speeds increased. For fifty-six years, people in Westtown could depend on the West Chester trolleys that stopped at Manley Road, Chester Road, and Pot House Road (now Green Lane).

An extension, never built, would also have traversed Westtown Township. Taylor proposed a branch off the West Chester line at Willistown that would have ran along Street Road to the Westtown School, his alma mater. This would have replaced the stage coach that ran from the School to the Pennsylvania Railroad's Westtown Station. Taylor asked the school to put up most of the construction money, but they declined as there was little chance of this extension ever being profitable.

From 1899 until 1925, there was a morning trolley that picked up milk along the line from Cottage Hill, West Chester, and delivered the cans to Philadelphia dairies at 63rd and Market Street. A twenty quart shipment cost nine cents in 1918. This, and other trolley freight shipments, succumbed to trucks in 1925, though the U.S. Mail contract was continued to Edgemont until the trolleys were abandoned.

Through the Great Depression, and then the boom of World War II, the West Chester line carried on even as other great trolley systems went out of business.

Even with brand new cars purchased in 1949, the post-war boom in personal automobiles and bigger and better highways doomed the line. The Commonwealth wanted to double the size of West Chester Pike and the trolleys did not fit into their plans. After a few years skirmishing with the highway proponents, the Red Arrow Lines gave in and the last trolley ran on June 4, 1954.

Now West Chester Pike is clogged with traffic and modern stores and businesses rim its boundaries. All traces of the trolley line are buried under the eastbound lanes. But now and then, on a clear quiet night, perhaps one can just make out the sound of the last car of the evening grinding up the hill from Milltown, braking for a stop at Chester Road, and then accelerating downhill toward Willistown, traction motors humming at top speed and the trolley pole sparking against the wire in the darkness. Oh, for a time machine!

Chester County SPCA Contract

The Township contracts annually with the SPCA to pick up stray domestic animals in the Township. The dog or cat must be confined before you call the SPCA. The animal must be confined or restrained before the SPCA will transport. Please call 610-692-6113 for a pickup. The SPCA does not pick up any wildlife such as foxes, raccoons, skunks, etc.

DEER

We have a large deer population in the Township which can result in deer being killed by vehicles. To have road kill picked up, please contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 610-926-1966. The Township is not responsible for removing dead deer.

Friends of Oakbourne News

Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

What's that ball doing on top of our tree?

During the growing season, I periodically check out trees that the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) have planted in Oakbourne Park over the years. As I approached the swamp white oak that was planted this spring, I noticed what appeared to be a ball impaled on the very top of the leader of the tree (see picture Below).



On closer examination, I observed that this ball (somewhat smaller than a tennis ball) was composed of red segmented wedge-shaped kernels. Much to my amazement, I spotted another similar smaller ball growing on a branch at eye level. You can see from the close up picture (on the right) of this smaller ball the segmented lobed structure of this “thing”. Has some alien species come to take over our oak tree? Not really.

I suspected that this weird growth might be some kind of oak gall and set out to confirm this by doing some internet research. Galls are abnormal growths, swellings or deformities on twigs and leaves that are caused by a gall-making insect or other pest species.

This particular gall on our tree is known as an “oak lobed gall” and is caused by a tiny wasp, probably *Cynips strobilina*. The female wasp lays her eggs in freshly growing plant tissue (in our case, oak buds or twigs) in early spring. Powerful growth-regulating chemicals are released during the egg-laying procedure and/or by the freshly hatched larvae; these chemicals “reprogram” the growth of the twig and cause a protective chamber to form around each larva. This chamber protects and provides food for the larva until they mature and eventually emerge from the chamber as a wasp.

When I examined this oak tree later in the summer, the top most gall had disappeared leaving the leader of the tree intact. The smaller gall was in the process of disintegrating, with each segment breaking away from the cluster and falling onto the ground. The burgundy color originally observed on the galls had changed to a dull brown. Oak galls are not usually harmful to the tree, so no controls are necessary.

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 (tmbare@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, January 16, 2014 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.

The following references will provide more information on oak galls:

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/galls-oak>

<http://bygl.osu.edu/print/1904>

<http://www.uwex.edu/ccs/ag/plantdoc/viewCase.cfm?cid=8870>



Westtown East Goshen Citizen's Police Academy

On November 20, 2013, sixteen residents of East Goshen, Westtown, and Thornbury Townships graduated from the Citizens Police Academy conducted by the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department. The Citizens Police Academy is a program that is designed to give citizens a better understanding of the operations of the police department, the services that it offers, and its officers. During the 8 week academy, the participants had the opportunity to receive an “insider’s view” of the department through hands-on demonstrations. Participants handled the department’s weapons, vehicles, and equipment, and it appears that they enjoyed the class as much as the police officers did!



Class Graduation Photo: Standing (L to R): Allan L. Chew, Maria Proctor, David Molnar, Jacquelyn A. Plummer, Erich Meyer, Daniel R. Gaffney, William S. Covert, Michael J. Burke, and Colin A. Scull; Seated (L to R): Ashlyn Whittingham, Ruth Ayres, Diane L. Ricevuto, Pauline R. Volz, and Joan P. Goettel; Not pictured: Gerald R. Nail



A class participant tries on the equipment worn by members of the Emergency Response Team (E.R.T.).



Photo #3: A class participant checks his target after firing a weapon loaded with Simunitions (non-lethal training ammunition).



A class participant applies black fingerprint powder in an effort to locate latent fingerprints on a glass jar in the evidence lab.

Tips for Surviving the Winter Plowing Season

A little patience and cooperation are essential ingredients for getting through the winter plowing season. When residents, plowing contractors, and township crews work together, we can reduce the frustrations that sometimes accompany winter snowstorms. Residents can minimize plowing-related problems for themselves, and ensure that township crews can perform their job safely and effectively by following these tips:

1. Please do not park your car on the street during winter storms.

2. Residents may find it less frustrating to wait until the plows have completed their street before cleaning the end of their driveway. Township plow units are designed to discharge snow to the sides of the road and are not capable of skipping driveway areas.

3. Snow from the driveway should be shoveled to the right as you're facing the street. This will reduce the amount of snow pushed back into the driveway during the next plowing.

4. Residents hiring contractors to plow their driveways should remind the contractor of state and local laws that prohibit pushing or placing snow back into or across the street. Doing so not only creates hazards for drivers and neighbors, but also makes it difficult for the township to keep the streets clean.

5. Residents should clear snow from the mailbox area after each storm. Snow that remains in front of mailboxes will get compacted by Postal vehicles, and make subsequent plowing less effective.

6. If trash/recycling pickup day coincides with plowing activities, make sure your trash can and recycling bin are well behind the curb or in the driveway so the plow will not hit them.



7. Residents who have experienced lawn damage in the past may wish to mark their property with flexible stakes commonly sold at home centers. This will help plow operators determine the road edge when snow covered.

8. Don't allow children to build snow forts and tunnels in the snow banks adjacent to the curb, or to play near the roads. It can be difficult for the plow operators to see children.

9. Keep sleds and toys away from the street.

10. Residents are encouraged to "adopt a fire hydrant" near their home and keep snow shoveled away from it. This will ensure that hydrants are accessible in case of an emergency.

Westtown Health and Fitness Winter Session

Kick off your New Year's resolution with a class or two at the Oakbourne Mansion. Westtown Township Parks & Recreation is offering Pilates and Yoga classes that won't break your bank account. **Each 8 week session is only \$70.**

All instructors are fully certified. Class size is limited to 10 students per class, so register quickly.

Registration form is available at the Township office and on our website www.westtownpa.org, click on News and Information, or Parks & Rec.

The Winter session starts January 20 and will run until the week of March 17
(no class Wednesday, February 19, and Monday, February 17)

PILATES: **Monday 6PM - 7PM**
 Tuesday 9AM -10AM

YOGA: **Wednesday 9:30AM -10:30AM**
 Wednesday 6PM - 7PM



The spring session will start the week of March 31 and run thru the week of June 2 (no class on Wednesday, April 16, Monday April 21, Monday, May 26 and Wednesday, May 28). **Enrollment starts the week of February 10, 2014.**

Email questions and concerns to westtownhealthandfitness@gmail.com

Planning a Wedding in 2014?

Consider Oakbourne Mansion and the surrounding grounds for your event. The Mansion features stunning stained glass windows, beautiful woodwork, and Victorian architecture.

The unique water tower has recently undergone renovations and makes a gorgeous backdrop for photos.

To schedule a tour or for more information, contact Rick Brown at OakbourneEvents@gmail.com or call 484-639-2821.



Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association & Penn State Brandywine

jointly welcome

Mike Leventry

Integrated Pest Management Consultant

**Sunday,
February 23, 2014
2:00pm-3:30pm**

Penn State Brandywine
Tomezsko Building Auditorium
25 Yearsley Mill Road,
Media, PA 19063

<http://www.brandywine.psu.edu/Information/map.htm>



“Protecting Our Water Resources and Environment Through Reduced Chemical Use”

Topics to be covered include:

- How homeowners can reduce the need for chemical pesticides by utilizing integrated pest management (IPM).
- Cultural practices.
- Conservation of naturally occurring predators.
- Physical controls.
- Pests to be covered include: weeds, insects, algae, and troublesome mammals.



Mike Leventry

Mike has worked as an integrated pest management professional for 10 years, including time at Longwood Gardens, University of Delaware, and the Kennett Collection.

Free and open to the public.

Preregistration recommended, since space is limited.

<http://crcwatersheds.org/resources/view/295>

Contact CRC at: crc@nni.com or 610-359-1440

For more information please see: www.crcwatersheds.org

Emergency Preparedness



For more information on emergency preparedness, and to register for free emergency notification system, log on to www.ReadyNotify.org. When situations arise in Southeastern Pennsylvania that may affect you or your family, ReadyNotify-PA lets local officials notify you quickly by e-mail, or text message to your cell phone or other e-mail enabled device. Be among the first to find out and stay informed during an emergency. For more information about what to do during an emergency, go to www.chesco.org/des or call the Chester County Department of Emergency Services at 610-344-5000.

Severe weather is always a possibility in Westtown during the winter, and it simply makes good sense to be prepared. Your Emergency Management Team will be doing everything we can to help prepare, but we will all be safer if you do your part as well. Please consider these three simple things: it's what you have in your head, in your home, and in your hand.

- **Have in your HEAD – your Emergency Plan.**

Discuss with your family what you will do in an emergency, how to get and stay in contact with each other, have a meeting place and an emergency contact if you are separated, and be ready to shelter-in-place or evacuate.

- **Have in your HOME – your Shelter-In-Place Kit.** Have enough supplies for everyone, including pets, for three days so you don't have to go outside your home. Make sure you have a radio (crank-powered or some fresh batteries) to get information.

- **Have in your HAND – your Family Go-Bag for evacuations.** It should be small enough to carry, a backpack or roller suitcase with supplies for three days, copies of your important documents, credit cards and cash, medications (for your pets too!), and personal items.

Some of us may need a little extra help in an emergency. Westtown Township participates in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Special Needs Registry program. It's an Internet based system which allows individuals who may need some additional notification, attention or assistance during an emergency situation. It is designed to allow you to submit information for yourself, or as a caregiver for someone else.

To register, go to <https://specialneedsapa.org>. You will be prompted to create a user name and password to insure the security of your data, then you are presented a short form to fill out, describing what needs you, or the person you are filing for, may require. In an emergency, your information can be viewed by Chester County Emergency Management personnel and the Westtown Emergency Management Coordinator, who will be able to make sure you are notified of the emergency and provided the assistance you need. If you may need extra help during an emergency situation, from power failure to evacuation, please take a few minutes and register on this system.

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Fax: 610-696-6171
Sterlingautobody.com

Township Scheduled Meetings & Events

January, 2014

6, 21 (Tues.) – Board of Supervisors
8, 22 – Planning Commission
11 – Christmas Tree pickup
14 – Parks & Recreation
16 – Friends of Oakbourne
23 – Historical Commission

February

3, 18 (Tues.) – Board of Supervisors
5, 19 – Planning Commission
8 – Yard Waste pickup
11 – Parks & Recreation
27 – Historical Commission

March

3, 17 – Board of Supervisors
5, 19 – Planning Commission
8 – Yard Waste Pickup
11 – Parks & Recreation
27 – Historical Commission

**All Board of Supervisors (7:30pm),
Historical Commission (6pm), and
Planning Commission Meetings
(7:30pm) 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 7:30pm.**

**Township Offices will be closed January 1st and 20th,
and February 17th.**

Winter De-icing Tips for Residents

Excess salt and other de-icing chemicals can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies. This winter, you can help by following these environmentally-friendly snow removal practices.

- Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for de-icing chemicals like rock salt.
- Shovel snow onto permeable surfaces including gently sloping and level landscape and grassy areas so as the snow melts it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.

If you must use de-icing chemicals, follow these suggestions...

- Control application of chemical de-icers and avoid over application.
- Limit chemical applications near environmentally-sensitive areas including springs, streams, ponds, wetlands, and water supply areas and sensitive landscape and vegetation
- Sand and sawdust can be used as an environmentally-friendly alternative to commonly used salt products.
- Use salt substitutes that are less harmful including Calcium Chloride (CaCl_2) and Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA).
- For larger areas, apply salt as a brine solution to prevent drift off of paved surfaces.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams



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.

2014 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: 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/>.



Trash & Recycling Service
A.J. Blozenski Inc.
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