

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

Carol R. DeWolf, Chair

Charles P. Barber, Vice Chair

Thomas A. Foster, Police Commissioner

January 2010

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

The Westtown Gazette

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Westtown Township, County of Chester

First 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

WESTTOWN ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS.

Beginning in December, 2009, the Township accepts Master Card and Discover for the payment of sewer and trash bills, and for permits of all kinds. There is a convenience fee associated with the use of credit cards.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP – SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH 2010

CURBSIDE BY 7:00 AM. DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON THE TREE. TREES IN BAGS WILL NOT BE TAKEN.

JOB HUNTING – BECOME A CENSUS TAKER

Work up to 40 hours per week, in a temporary part-time job with the 2010 Census. Good pay (\$17.75/hr), flexible hours and mileage reimbursement. Call 1-866-861-2010.

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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.

2010 Township Budget

On December 21st, the Board of Supervisors approved the Township Budget 2010. The general state of the economy made it challenging to provide a budget that would be in balance.

In the general fund some legally mandated increases in expenditures weighted especially heavy on the Township. These are to be contrasted with revenues (of which the various taxes account for over 60% of the total), which are expected to actually decrease in 2010. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors did not wish to increase the township real estate or any other taxes given the bad economic climate. The end result is that the Township cut programs in order to balance the budget without an increase in taxes.

The accompanying pie chart reflects the distribution of expenditures in the general fund. Approximately .50 percent of all expenditures are

related to public safety (police, fire, and emergency management) with another .17 percent goes to trash collection which is recovered from user fees. The remaining .33 percent is distributed between administration, public works, Parks and Recreation and debt.

As to the Sewer Fund, there was no state mandate that higher treatment standards be applied for 2010. Accordingly, the need to deal with increased costs was not as acute as anticipated. Any cost increases were absorbed in the short term and there was no need to increase sewer fees.

The accompanying pie chart shows the distribution of anticipated expenditures for the Sewer Department. The most obvious part of this is debt service, which accounts for 60% of the total sewer budget. For the most part, the debt service involves the cost of the acquisition and upgrade of the sewer plant.

The 2010 Census is Coming to Your Mailbox in March!

What is the Census?

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States.

When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

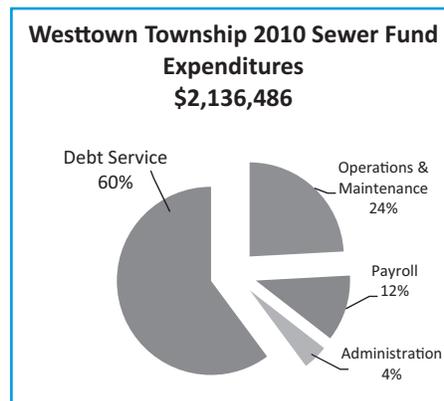
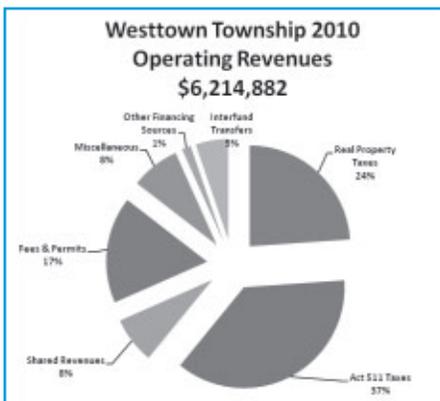
You can get more information and view the questions at the website - 2010.census.gov.

How does it affect you?

When we all answer the Census, our needs are heard.

The data collected by the census determines the number of seats Pennsylvania has in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also affects the number of State Senators and Representatives (and influence) that our region has in Harrisburg.

continued on next page



Glossary

Real Property - 2.0 mills levied on assessed value of taxable property.

Act 511 Taxes - 1/2% Earned Income Tax, \$52.00 Local Services Tax and 1/2% Realty Transfer Tax.

Shared Revenue - Liquid Fuels Tax, shared revenue, grants & Magistrate Fines.

Fees & Permits - Refuse user fees, protective inspection fees, building permits, etc.

Misc - Rents, cable franchise fees, sales and interest earned.

Other Financing Sources - Anticipated legal settlement for mold remediation.

Operations & Maintenance - Costs associated with wastewater collection and treatment for Chester Creek Sewer Plant, Pump Stations, and sewage processed by West Goshen Municipal Authority.

Administration - Postage, billing, legal, engineering & liability insurance.

Payroll - Salary & benefits for plant salaries and benefits of administrative staff.

Debt Service - Sinking fund payments for Sewer Revenue Bond 2005, Sewer Expansion Revenue Bond 2006 and General Fund Loan for sewer debt retired in 2008.

“The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by Law direct.”

— Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States

The 2010 Census is Coming *continued from page 3*

Our community also benefits from getting an accurate count of residents because Federal and State spending is influenced by the number and needs of our residents. The 2010 Census will help to determine how communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers

- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

Plus, people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and much more.

That’s why it’s so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Your participation isn’t just important—it’s mandatory!

“...an accurate count of the U.S. population forms the basis for many important but often overlooked political, economic, and social decisions that are made that end up affecting our daily lives.”

— C.N. Le, Professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst

News Release – WESTTOWN EAST GOSHEN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department has observed a recent upsurge in citizen complaints with regards to excessive speeding in the 3 Townships (Westtown, East Goshen and Thornbury-Chester County). The complaints typically refer to speeding on local roadways either nearby or in residential neighborhoods. As a result of these complaints, the Police Department has increased its traffic safety enforcement efforts.

Speed enforcement is conducted using one of three pieces of equipment. Officers use either the speedometer in the police vehicle, an electronic stopwatch, or an infrared device. Use of the speedometers is fairly straight forward. The speedometers are calibrated and certified. The officer simply paces a vehicle for a short distance to obtain an accurate speed. An electronic stopwatch is used by timing a vehicle passing through a measured distance. The officer starts the watch at the first point and stops it after the vehicle passes the second point and a speed in miles per hour is displayed. The watches are certified every sixty days. The infrared device is an instrument named ENRADD, which is an abbreviation for Electronic Non Radar Device. ENRADD consists of two small aluminum bars; one bar has two infrared transmitters and the other two receivers as illustrated in the adjacent diagram, courtesy of enradd.com. The device calculates the time it takes the vehicle to pass through the two infrared beams and outputs a speed in miles per hour. The interesting thing about ENRADD is that the device is wireless and can transmit to a police vehicle over fifteen hundred feet away. In this case you may well have been clocked long before you actually see a police car. All three methods are approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the police department possesses the required certifications.

In addition to understanding how the police obtain your speed it is important to be aware of the penalties for speeding, which are quite costly in Pennsylvania and not only include fines but points as well.

§ 3362 of the Pennsylvania Code provides for a fine of \$35.00 for the first 5 MPH over the posted speed limit and an additional \$2.00 for every mile per hour a driver exceeds the speed limit thereafter. Additionally, a driver is assessed a \$10.00 EMS charge to fund the states emergency medical

system, a surcharge of \$30, \$40, or \$50.00 to fund the state’s catastrophic loss medical fund depending on how fast you were driving, \$34.50 for district court costs, and \$10.00 judicial computing costs.

The catastrophic loss medical surcharge mentioned above is governed by § 6506 (a)(4) of the vehicle code and applied to speeding tickets at the following rate:

01 to 15 MPH over the posted speed limit	\$30.00
16 to 25 MPH over the posted speed limit	\$40.00
26 MPH and above the posted speed limit	\$50.00

Points are governed by § 1535 (a) of the vehicle code and assessed for speeding violations using the below schedule:

06 to 10 MPH over the posted speed limit	2 points
11 to 15 MPH over the posted speed limit	3 points
16 to 25 MPH over the posted speed limit	4 points
26 to 30 MPH over the posted speed limit	5 points
31 and over the posted speed limit	5 points
(and probable suspension)	

Points are removed at a rate of 3 per year.

Considering all of that information: What will a speeding ticket cost you? Here are two examples. The first one, driving 36 MPH in a posted 25 MPH and the second driving 50 MPH in a posted 35 MPH:

36 MPH in a 25 MPH Zone		50 MPH in a 35 MPH Zone	
Fine:	\$47.00	FINE:	\$55.00
E. M. S.	\$10.00	E. M. S.	\$10.00
MCARE	\$30.00	MCARE	\$30.00
COSTS	\$34.50	COSTS	\$34.50
JCP/ATJ	\$10.00	JCP/ATJ	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$131.50	TOTAL	\$139.50
Points	3	Points	3

The Police Department reminds you to please observe and obey all traffic laws and the speed limit.

Park and Recreation Commission

On December 7th, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance establishing a Park and Recreation Commission, replacing the Park Advisory Group (PAG). Leonard Terhani and Kristine Lisi have served on PAG for sometime, Jennifer Shea-Schwacke recently joined the group. Jen has a long career of working in higher education and planning major events at colleges and universities. This experience will come in handy as the Commission plans its 2010 events. Jen and her husband Bill have two children and have lived in the area for 10 years. All three were appointed to the new Commission

PROPER DISPOSAL OF PET WASTE

Pet waste, if left unattended, can have a number of undesirable effects on the quality of ground water. Rainwater and ground water will be contaminated and flow into the streams and rivers carrying with it bacteria, viruses and parasites that can threaten the health of the aquatic life. In addition, pet waste contains nutrients which promote growth of weeds and algae which further threaten the health of waterways.

As part of an Eagle Scout project, two pet waste stations were installed at Oakbourne Park. These stations contain plastic bags specially designed for collection of pet waste.

Please use these bags, and properly dispose of the waste in one of the trash cans in the park. In this way everyone can help keep our park, and our streams cleaner and healthier.



THANKS TO OUR VENDORS!

The Dog Show had a collection of AMAZING vendors this past year. Before the year is out, we would like to extend another thanks to them:

The Animal Clinic of Westtown Village, the Chester County SPCA, "Stay Dog" Invisible Fence, Best Friend's Boarding, Rudy Dog Productions, Kathy's Pet Sitting, Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue, Shaklee Cleaning products, Going To The Dog's Obedience School and The Dog Training Club of Chester County. A special "Thank You" is extended to Pet Kraze in not only attending as a vendor but in also providing a \$50 gift certificate to one of our winners.

If you have a pet-related business & would like to be a vendor for next year's show, contact Jen Shea-Schwacke at JenShea1@hotmail.com.

Support Dogs Project was an Outstanding Success

The Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police project to collect supplies for support dogs and their handlers serving with the US forces overseas was an outstanding success. 30 boxes were shipped at the beginning of November containing over 150 dog toys, nearly 200 boxes/bags of dog treats, 38 dog blankets, 12 soccer balls, 12 footballs, 35 set of dog booties, 300 ear plugs, 31 retractable leashes, granola, peanuts, beef jerky, ice packs, and lots more.



BEHIND THE BADGE

Officer James Bilotta

Officer Bilotta is an 18 year veteran of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division. Officer Bilotta serves as a FTO (Field Training Officer) for newly hired Police Officers and also serves on the County's M.I.R.T. Team (Major Incident Response Team). His hobbies include ice hockey and softball. Officer Bilotta resides in Chester County.



PLANNING CALENDAR

Christmas Tree Pickup: Saturday January 16th, 2010.
Please make sure all ornaments, tinsel, etc are removed from the tree. Do not put in a bag.

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates

- January 1st – New Years Day**
- January 18th – Martin Luther King Day**
- February 15th – President’s Day**
- April 2nd – Good Friday**

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

The Oakbourne Mansion Commission meets as needed.

January

Board of Supervisors – 4th and 18th

Planning Commission – 6th and 20th

Parks and Recreation – 12th

Friends of Oakbourne – 21st
(7:00 PM Dunning Room Oakbourne Mansion)

February

Board of Supervisors – 1st, and 16th

Planning Commission – 3rd and 17th

Parks and Recreation – 9th

March

Board of Supervisors – 1st and 15th

Planning Commission – 3rd and 17th

Parks and Recreation – 9th

April

Board of Supervisors – 5th and 19th

Planning Commission – 7th and 21st

Parks and Recreation – 13th

Friends of Oakbourne – 15th

Westtown Township Summer Movie Nights

We need your vote for to select the upcoming movies for our summer movie night series. Cast your vote by the number associated to each movie. Vote for the two movies you would most like to see in an email to parkrec@westtown.org. You may also mail your entry or cast your ballot at the township office located at 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA 19382.

Please send us your response by January 20, 2010

1. Seabiscuit, Rated PG13
2. Old Dogs, Rated PG,
3. Hotels For Dogs, Rated PG
4. Planet 51, Rated G
5. Hanna Montana The Movie, Rated G
6. Pride and Prejudice, Rated PG
7. Bedtime Stories, Rated PG
8. Imagine That, Rated PG
9. Scooby-Doo!-The Mystery Begins
Rated PG

Hope to see you there! And remember, we are always looking for more volunteers! Please let us know of your interest by emailing parkrec@westtown.org or call the township office at 610-692-1930

Plan Ahead!

The Parks & Recreation Commission has been busy planning the 2010 events for residents. Mark your calendars now for the 2010 Dog Show: **Saturday September 25th at Oakbourne Park!** The 2009 “Best in Show” winner Sarah D. will come back in 2010 as a featured judge. Maybe you can be next year’s big winner! Remember, this is a kid-friendly event! Everyone is welcome!

RECYCLING AND TRASH INFORMATION

Holiday Pickup – The following are the official holidays for A. J. Blosenski: New Years Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Trash will not be collected on these days. Your makeup days are: Monday Pickup – trash/recycling is collected the Saturday before the holiday. Thursday pickup your trash/recycling is collected the Saturday after the holiday.

IMPORTANT RECYCLING INFORMATION

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. Information on home composting is available at the Township office. The 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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\$10.00 off
a special pick-up or
roll-off container

A.J. Blosenski Inc.
www.ajblosenski.com
610.942.2707



Four Generations of Quality Service from the Blosenski Family

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Construction
- Residential
- Recycling
- 1-40 yard containers
- Storage containers
- Special cleanups
- Junk removal
- Residential toter carts



*15 cubic yards
14ft long / 8ft wide / 5ft high*



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