

**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

Charles P. Barber, Chair

Carol R. DeWolf, Vice Chair

Thomas A. Foster, Police Commissioner

**October 2010**

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

# The Westtown Gazette

Volume XIV, Issue 4

Westtown Township, County of Chester

Fourth 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

## Memorial Trees

Trees provide a number of benefits – not only are they critical to the earth's ecosystem by helping to maintain a proper carbon dioxide/oxygen balance, but they add to our every day comfort and greatly enhance our enjoyment of our surroundings. Overall, the benefits are too numerous to count.

In Westtown, there is one unique benefit – they enable us to provide a living memorial for a friend or loved one through the Friends of Oakbourne Tree Dedication Program. You can select a tree to be planted to honor a special person. There is no better way to honor someone than with a tree which will live for many years in one of the most beautiful settings in Chester County, our own Oakbourne Park.

For details, contact the Township Manager at 610-692-1920.

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Westtown Township \* Chester County \* Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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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](mailto:info@westtown.org);  
(Comments for the Manager & Board of Supervisors) - [supervisors@westtown.org](mailto:supervisors@westtown.org) \*\* Website: [www.westtownpa.org](http://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.*

## Delinquent Utility Bills

In the July edition of the Gazette it was reported that the Township would be more aggressive in the collection of delinquent sewer and trash bills. The Township has hired a company to collect these overdue accounts. This effort has proven successful in as far as it went. In several cases the Township has taken property owners before the District Justice in order to collect. In other cases, the property owner has paid the bills or payment programs were established.

However, this initial step involved only the oldest and largest delinquent accounts. If you are behind in making payments on your trash and/or sewer bills and have not received notice from the collection agency, it is only a matter of time before action is taken.

In order for the Township to balance its revenue and expenditures, it is important that

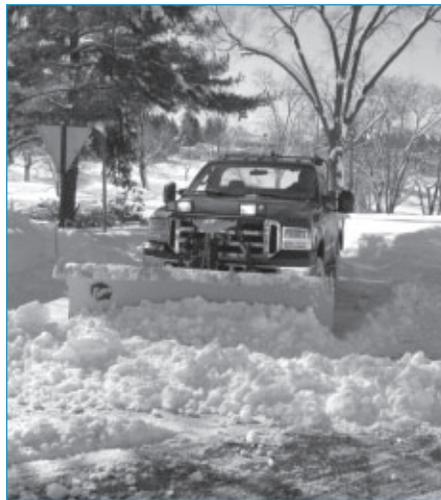
all residents pay their fair share. If delinquencies are allowed to accumulate, there may be a need to increase rates so that the Township can pay its bills. As the costs of doing business increase, rate increases are inevitable. However, the need for such can be kept down if each person pays for services used.



## Winter Road Issues

With winter nearly here, the Township would ask for your help during periods of snow fall so that we can do a better job of keeping the roads open and that you may stay safer. Specifically, we ask that you do the following whenever there is any significant amount of snow.

- Please keep all cars parked in driveways and specially designated off-road spaces. If they are parked in the street it will be more difficult for the plows to get through and your vehicle will be more likely to be plowed in.
- Do not plow or shovel snow onto the street. This will only create a safety hazard and inconvenience your neighbors.
- When piling snow keep in mind that you and your neighbors will need to see oncoming traffic, either vehicular or pedestrian. If you cannot see coming out of your driveway, an accident could easily result.



- If there is a fire hydrant near your property, please shovel the snow away from it. In case of fire, this will make it easier for emergency personnel to find the hydrant and will save time.

The Township road crew will make every effort to keep the streets clear and safe, but **your help is needed and appreciated!**

## RECYCLING

It is very apparent that our residents are recycling as our tipping fees at the Lanchester Landfill have decreased this year. This indicates that less trash is being discarded and more items are being recycled. We thank you and appreciate all your efforts toward a "green" environment.



## Penn Wood Pond Management Committee Doing Great Things



One recent Sunday afternoon, the Penn Wood Neighborhood Homeowners Association discussed the management of their pond, the importance of native plantings, and some success at discouraging geese. Kudos to Irene and Owen Owens, co-chairs of the Pond Committee for their work to advance everyone's knowledge of native plantings and the importance of water quality. And to folks like Jim Teague who tirelessly removes invasive plants and John McCaughern who works to maintain the pond environment. This has everything to do with the quality of water in the pond area itself, downstream, and the environmental integrity of the entire watershed.

For many years now, the pond management committee has been working to make this pond a special place for not only fishing, walking, wading, and contemplation, but for the biodiversity of both fauna and flora and its function in the watershed. The pond has also become less attractive to the area's Canada geese population as a result of some of their work. The geese for many reasons are not always viewed as attractive in the pond's landscape given the particular contributions they tend to make in the area while visiting. These goose deposits add to the nutrient load in the ponds and affect the water quality.

The efforts initiated at the Penn Wood neighborhood pond have discouraged visitation by the Canada

Geese and their technique for success is worth noting. The Penn Wood Association has allowed the grasses and wildflowers to grow high around the perimeter of the pond riparian area. These plantings not only stabilize the bank and reduce soil erosion, they provide the filtering capacity so that unwanted nutrients and sediments are not carried into the pond. At the same time they decrease one significant culprit of the nutrient load from geese visitation. The plantings provide a pallet of color against the glimmering pond, and the buffering of the shoreline has served to discourage the geese. Geese do not desire to nest in or walk through the tall grasses, plants, and shrubs, as they prefer to see their predators.

On the following beautiful fall Saturday, I went back to visit the pond to take a closer look at what's happening. Plantings such as Winterberry Holly, Red Osier Dogwoods, Sweet Pepperbush and Button Bush are being established on the western area near the ponds edge. On the southern side in a peninsula area plantings alongside the pond are assisting with ground water infiltration. Over a longer time period these plants may impair the geese's flight paths as the trees on the southern shore do at present. The recreational use of the pond speaks for itself in the photo.

Riparian buffer areas of vegetation and trees aside a pond's edge and replacing large areas of grass to be mowed with planting meadows can have significant benefits to the ponds which you manage, and the overall water quality in the watershed. All of this is becoming increasingly more important to understand as water quality is so important to the health and well being of us all.

The group has planned their yearly bon fire to celebrate their pond maintenance work, encourage further volunteerism on the pond and being good neighbors.

*By Carol De Wolf  
Supervisor*



## Township-Owned Land Being Evaluated

Over the many years of its development, Westtown Township has acquired dozens of pieces of ground making up more than 350 acres. Most of this ground is vital to the Township's mission to manage storm water, provide park and recreation space, and maintain Westtown's agricultural and historical heritage. Other pieces are residential lots that for various reasons were never built on. Some of the ground is simply vacant and has been abused as dumping areas. All the land, however, requires maintenance and active management by the Township's public works staff.

To determine if each piece of ground is being used appropriately, the Board of Supervisors has asked the Planning Commission to evaluate all the property. The process is underway and will take some time to complete. The evaluation includes looking at how the land is now used, how it impacts immediate neighbors, how it could be used, whether it



could be sold, etc. Each piece requires individual attention.

For example, one 10-acre parcel in the southeast portion of the Township that is now being farmed under contract has been eyed by an area sports league for use as a sports complex. The Township has examined the ground and has determined that having such a facility at that location would create a number of problems as well as safety

issues for such recreational use. In addition to concerns from the neighborhood, there are significant traffic safety issues because of dangerous access to Route 926 given the number of vehicles that would be coming and going.

Accordingly, the Township is neither in negotiation nor will consider the use of the ground for use as a sports facility. For many years, the Township has provided sports fields at Oakbourne Park both for general resident use and under lease for exclusive use by various organizations. In addition, the Township has been open to making other open space available in the vicinity of Pennwood Elementary School to sports leagues, as long as certain conditions can be met.

The progress of this evaluation process of Township open space will be reported in future newsletters.

*Thomas A. Foster*  
Supervisor

## Brief Web Posting Example

The Chester Tax Collection Committee (CTCC) recently appointed Keystone Collections Group to serve as the Earned Income Tax (EIT) and Local Services Tax (1ST) collector for school and municipal taxing authorities within Chester County. This important change was brought about under Act 32 of 2008. Act 32 requires municipal governments and school districts in all Pennsylvania counties, except Philadelphia, to select a single tax collector to serve the Earned Income Tax collection needs of the political subdivisions within the county. Keystone will officially start EIT and 1ST collections for the CTCD effective January 1, 2011. This means that Keystone will be responsible for processing payments for the 4th quarter of 2010, as well as the 2010 final earned income tax

returns due April 15, 2011. In the next few weeks, individuals and employers will receive detailed instructions and contact information from Keystone to help answer questions and provide taxpayer assistance.

For additional information on Keystone Collections Group, please visit their website [www.keystonecollections.com](http://www.keystonecollections.com)



## Emergency Management

Westtown Township has joined a regional network of emergency responders. The group, known as the West Chester Area Regional Emergency Management Group (WCAREMG) is a partnership of the Borough of West Chester, West Chester University, and the townships making up the West Chester Area School District: Birmingham, East Bradford, East Goshen, Thornbury (Chester County), West Goshen, and Westtown. The purpose of the group is to insure regional cooperation through the sharing of information and resources during emergency situations. Since most of the participating municipalities have all-volunteer emergency managers and small (but enthusiastic!) staffs, this group represents an opportunity to share incident support personnel during emergencies and large-scale events.

## A Change of Address for the Township?



Big changes may be in the works for Oakbourne Mansion and Westtown Township. The Board of Supervisors is considering converting this Victorian masterpiece into the Township's administrative offices and main meeting place.

The rationale for the possible move is two fold. First, moving the offices to Oakbourne and selling the current building would save a considerable amount of money. The current building on Rt. 202 sits on very high priced real estate that is attractive to commercial users. The Township has already received inquiries. Selling this building might bring in more than the cost of renovating the mansion. Second, Oakbourne holds a special place in Westtown. Not only is it geographically in the center of the Township, but it also is the primary recreational and cultural hub for Township events. This historic building would be an inviting place for residents to do their business or just make a visit.

To help the supervisors make the final decision, the architectural firm of Bernardon Haber Halloway is doing a feasibility study that includes a thorough inspection of the structure, possible layouts and a detailed cost analysis. The plans and cost

figures are due within the next few weeks. A presentation will be made at a supervisors meeting in October, and a final decision will be made shortly thereafter. If everything falls into place, the bid process and actual construction could begin early next year.

For some time, the Supervisors have been looking into ways to make better use of Oakbourne Mansion while dealing with the high cost of maintaining and renovating this 125-year-old structure. Very little has been done to the Mansion since the Township acquired it in the early 1970s, and it needs top to bottom renovation. Township funds, however, are in short supply.

Almost three years ago, the Township created the Oakbourne Mansion Commission to market the building as a venue for weddings, family parties and business events. Eva Foster as head of the Commission has done an incredible job of renting out the building. In the brief time the Commission has existed, rentals have brought in over \$20,000 and demand is steadily growing. But even this growing source of income is not enough to cover the cost of maintaining and renovating this grand old building. Something has to be done to provide a permanent solution.

Because the property was acquired with state and county grants, it cannot be sold or even leased to other parties. Nor does the building lend itself to conversion to a community center because of its multi-room, three-story layout. The Township has to come up with a creative way to turn Oakbourne into an asset rather than a liability. Fortunately, it may be that the building can be converted to administrative uses without compromising its Victorian charm. Two or three of the parlor rooms might be available for public use for small meetings or social events. Absolutely no changes would be made to the surrounding park area.

In the meantime, the Mansion will be available for private events. Several weddings are scheduled for this fall, and again the Mansion will be elaborately decorated for Holidays.

*Thomas A Foster  
Supervisor*





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S BEST OF WESTTOWN DOG SHOW WINNERS!



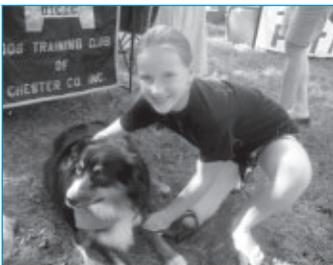
On Saturday, Sept. 25, hundreds of furry & friendly canines came out on a beautiful autumn day to compete and have a lot of fun. Here are this year's dog winners:



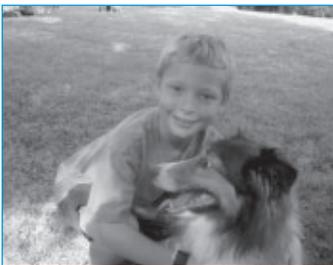
- Best Costume:** Cody DiNicola
- Hairiest:** Toby Corby
- Best Trick:** Lily Tolsdorf
- Best Barker (or Howler):** Nunen Seagraves
- Biggest:** Goliath McGonigle
- Smallest:** Lacey Meakin
- Best Licker:** Max Ferrante
- Best Tail Wagger:** Lacey Hash
- Prettiest Female:** China Kain
- Handsome Male:** Weber Treat
- Best Owner / Dog Look-alike:** Hannah Dutton
- BEST IN SHOW of the 3rd Annual Westtown Dog Show:** Lily Tolsdorf



**Many thanks to this year's vendors who added even more fun to the day:**



- Best Friends Boarding
- Boot Road Veterinary Clinic
- Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue
- Chester County SPCA
- Dog Training Club of Chester County
- Friends of Oakbourne
- Invisible Fence "Stay Dog" of Malvern
- Going To The Dogs Obedience Training
- "Lucky, Mommy & Me: An Unusual Memoir"
- Pet Kraze
- Rudy Dog.



**And a huge woof of thanks to this year's Presenting Sponsor:**



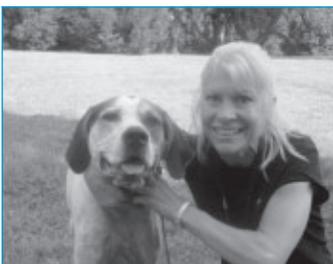
## First National

Bank of Chester County

Answers . Ideas . Access .

The Westtown/Thornbury Office

**Another Parks & Recreation Commission Creation**



# Christmas in July

Sponsored by the Park and Recreation Commission



It's hard to imagine playing in snow when it's 100 degrees in July, but that's what many township residents did on Saturday, July 24, in Tyson Park. Even better was the early one-on-one time with Santa! There was tons of fun at the annual Christmas in July event this summer. There were games to play, whether it was pin-the-nose-on-Rudolph, knock down the pile of wrapped Christmas presents with a baseball, or the bean bag toss through a cut-out Christmas tree. Each won the player a special prize! There were many arts and crafts as well, though none as popular as the yummy cookie decorating table! Or maybe it was the making of the snow.... But even in 100 degree heat, children of all ages took turns to ride in a horse and carriage. Join us next year! It can't be any hotter than it was this year, but it's sure to be even more fun!





## A Winter Festival

Join the fun!  
 Sunday, December 5  
 3 – 5 p.m.  
 Oakbourne Park and Mansion

Music and Singing! Crafts!  
 Cookies and Hot Chocolate!  
 A Special Tree Lighting Countdown!  
 And maybe, just maybe,  
 a special guest who likes to wear red,  
 has a white beard,  
 and likes to make lists!



*Another free family, fun event brought  
 to you by the  
 Parks & Recreation Commission*

## Now is the Time to Start Shopping for Electricity

You have probably heard by now that PECO's electrical rate caps are due to expire on December 31, 2010. It is very likely that our electric rates will increase in 2011. This electrical deregulation process was mandated by the State in the 1990's and the transition period is ending.

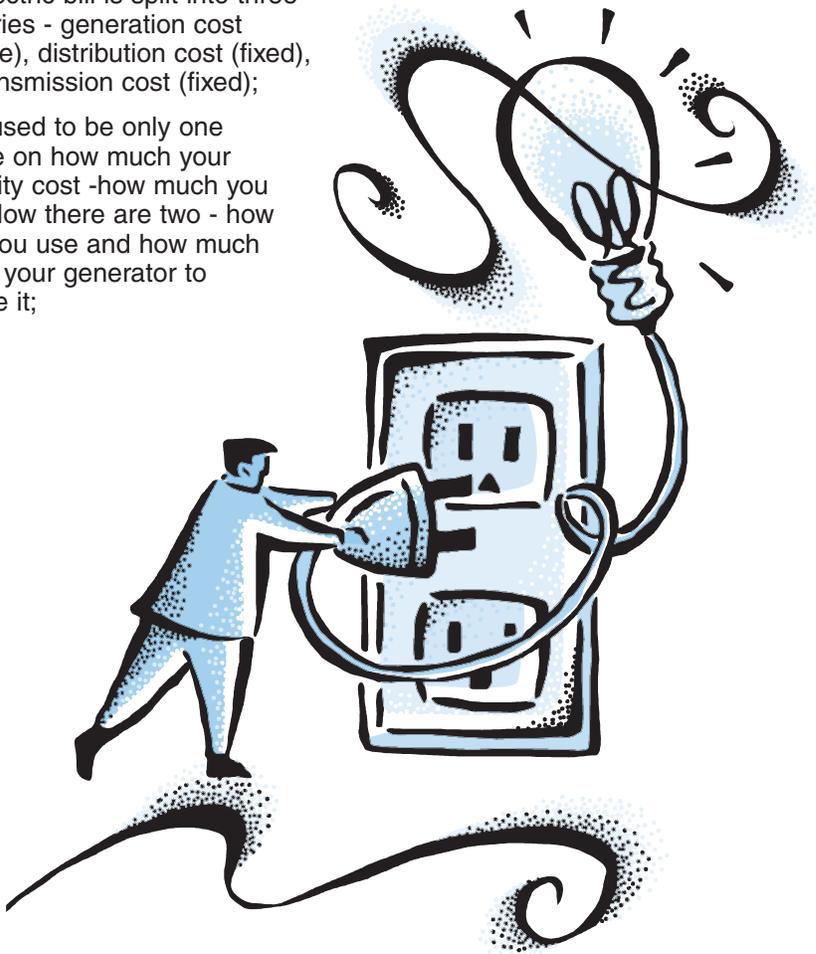
Some important facts to know about Pennsylvania Electric Deregulation:

- You can now shop around for electrical providers;
- If you don't shop, PECO will become your default provider and their cost may not be the lowest;
- Your electric bill is split into three categories - generation cost (variable), distribution cost (fixed), and transmission cost (fixed);
- There used to be only one variable on how much your electricity cost - how much you used. Now there are two - how much you use and how much it costs your generator to produce it;

- Electricity prices used to be fixed for long periods. That will change. Electricity is now going to be priced the same way gasoline is - with daily changes. But, by choosing the right provider and program for you, you can minimize the changes and get a good price.

You should start shopping now.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has started two websites that can help get you started. See the websites at [www.puc.state.pa.us/utilitychoice](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/utilitychoice) and [www.papowerswitch.com](http://www.papowerswitch.com).



*Credit to West Bradford Township Newsletter for contributing this article.*

### BEHIND THE BADGE



## Corporal Tim Hubbard

Westtown-East Goshen Police Corporal Tim Hubbard was awarded the Police Department's Award for Bravery at the East Goshen Township Board of Supervisors meeting on July 20th. Corporal Hubbard, a 14 year veteran of the force was investigating a suspicious vehicle on Strasburg Rd. in East Goshen Township back on January 17th of this year. As Cpl. Hubbard exited his patrol car he encountered a male suspect arguing with a female in the parking lot of the Ashbridge Preserve. Without warning the male subject produced a hand gun and opened fire on Cpl. Hubbard striking him in the hand. Cpl. Hubbard returned fire but the male and female subject both fled the scene. The male suspect has not been apprehended and the case remains under investigation.

## PLANNING CALENDAR

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates:

Thanksgiving and the Day After – November 25th, and 26th

Christmas – December 24th and December 27th.

December 31st (New Year's Eve)

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

The Oakbourne Mansion Commission meets as needed.

### October

Board of Supervisors – 4th & 18th

Planning Commission – 6th & 20th

Parks and Recreation – 12th

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

Leaf Collection – Saturday, 30th

### November

Board of Supervisors – 1st & 15th

Planning Commission – 3rd & 17th

Parks and Recreation – 9th

Leaf Collection – Saturday, 6th and 20th

### December

Board of Supervisors – 6th and 20th

Planning Commission – 8th and 22nd

Parks and Recreation – 14th

Leaf Collection – Saturday, 4th

### January

Christmas Tree Collection – Saturday, 15th

Board of Supervisors – 3rd and 17th

Planning Commission – 5th and 19th

Parks and Recreation – 11th

Friends of Oakbourne – 20th  
(Oakbourne Mansion, 7:00 PM)

## Oakbourne Garden Club



Oakbourne Garden Club  
meets at 7:00 PM at the  
Township Building,  
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown, PA



The speaker on October 21st will be  
**Craig Rybinski,**  
*Master Gardner*  
*and Professional Landscaper,*  
who will present a program on  
Landscaping. Your Home.



The November 16th speaker is  
**Steve Mostardi**  
of Mostardi's Nursery,  
who will speak on Gold Medal Plants.



*All are welcome.*

RECYCLING AND TRASH INFORMATION

## RAIN BARRELS PROMOTE CLEANER STREAMS

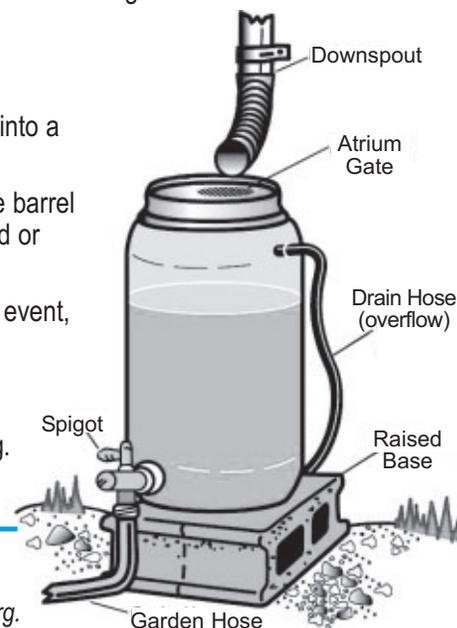
A rain barrel collects and stores stormwater runoff from rooftops. By temporarily holding stormwater runoff during a rain event, you can reduce peak runoff to storm sewers and creeks, reducing erosion of nearby streambanks. Collected rain water released at a later time recharges groundwater and can be used to water thirsty plants and lawns. Rain barrels also help reduce water pollution by reducing the amount of pollutants and sediment washing into our streams.

### Rain Barrel Installation & Maintenance

- Barrel must be placed on flat and level surface.
- Barrel should be raised about two feet off ground in order to enhance gravity flow into a hose and get good drainage. Cinder or landscaping blocks provide a good base.
- Overflow hose must be installed in addition to an outflow spigot. Overflow from the barrel as well as the garden hose from the spigot must be directed into a landscaped bed or lawn area at least 4 feet away from foundation.
- Empty rain barrel within a week after a rain event to optimize use for the next rain event, and to avoid problems with standing water.

#### Winter Care

- Empty buckets, watering cans, rain barrels. Emptying reduces freezing damage, prevents the accumulation of debris and allows for any needed repairs or refurbishing.
- Disconnect downspouts and redirect.



To view or download [How to Build Your Own Rain Barrel?](#) or for information on where to purchase rain barrels, see [www.crcwatersheds.org/resources](http://www.crcwatersheds.org/resources). This message is brought to you by your municipality and Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, [www.crcwatersheds.org](http://www.crcwatersheds.org).

Sources: Stroud Water Research Center, Education Department; Graphic courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department.

### 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.



Mention this ad and receive  
**\$10.00 off**  
a special pick-up or  
roll-off container

**A.J. Blosenski Inc.**  
[www.ajblosenski.com](http://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*