Westtown Township is both family and community oriented. Westtown emphasizes a high quality of life while enjoying and maintaining its natural and manmade environments.

In 2012, Westtown will be continuing with its road paving program by undertaking the paving of a total of approximately 1.2 miles of Township roadway. The roads to be resurfaced include the following:

- South New Street: South of W. Pleasant Grove Road - 332 linear feet, and from the Township line to Dunvegan Road - 1,920 linear feet
- Shady Grove Way: From Street Road (Pa Route 926) northbound to Johnnys Way. A distance of approximately 3,228 linear feet.

The project will include the milling of the road to a depth of 1 ½" and an overlay of 1 ½". Where necessary, a base repair of 4" depth shall be made.

In addition a stormwater drainage system will be constructed at the intersection of South New Street and General Howe Drive. The actual schedule for the paving will be posted on the Township website when it is received. It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken during the summer months.

As a result of the residents’ comments, the Board has adopted a revised course of action. Rather than submit an Act 537 plan providing for a low pressure collection system, the Board plans to put forth a plan for handling sewage in that area through an on-lot management program wherein the Township will monitor and enforce certain maintenance criteria.

Parallel with this, Westtown will finalize preparation of the proposed low pressure plan so that it is available should DEP reject the on-lot management approach.

It is anticipated that the Township will have another public hearing in July. The scheduling of this hearing is dictated by the September 30th deadline and the requirement for review of the plan by the County and Township agencies.
HOLIDAY PICKUPS: The Following are the official holidays for A. J. Blosenski when your trash will not be collected: New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your makeup days are: Monday pickup your trash and recycling will be collected the Saturday before the holiday. Thursday pickup your trash and recycling will be collected the Saturday after the holiday.

PREPARATION OF RECYCLING: at the bottom of this page is a summary of how to prepare your recycling for pickup. We are not a single stream collection therefore you must separate your recyclable items from your paper items. All glass, bimetal cans, plastic #1 to #7, and aluminum cans are to be comingled in your recycling bin. Newspapers, junk mail, magazine, phone books, etc are to be tied or in a brown paper bag.

LARGE ITEM COLLECTION: Large items will be picked up at your last scheduled pickup each month. You are allowed three items, such as, dish washer, couch, chair, water heater, etc. If you are not sure about an item please contact the Township.

Available at the Township office is information on where to discard items such as polystyrene packaging peanuts, propane tanks, automotive waste, Aluminum buy back centers, batteries, computer recycling, cell phones, and Fluorescents. Also available are brochures on how to compost, make a rain garden and rain barrels.

Discarding of Paint – latex paint can go in your regular trash. Make sure the can is empty and dry with the lid off. The paint can be hardened by putting down newspapers and kitty litter or sand and pour the paint on top. The paint will harden and you can roll up the newspapers and place in your trash can. Oil based paint can be taken to a hazardous waste collection.

Bulk Pickup – If you have any item with Freon (refrigerator, air conditioner) you must have the Freon removed, and a sticker on the item stating that it has been removed, as it will not be picked up on your bulk pickup date. Call the Township Office for information on Freon removal.

Recycling Bins available at the Township office – no charge.

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.
The following is the yard waste collections:

Saturday, July 21st, dumpster at Police Station 9:00Am – 1:00Pm
Saturday, August 25th, dumpster at Police Station 9:00Am – 1:00Pm
Saturday, September 22nd, curb side by 7:00Am • Saturday, October 20th, curb side by 7:00Am
Saturday, November 17th, curb side by 7:00Am • Saturday, December 8th, curb side by 7:00Am

No plastic bags, biodegradable paper bags only or a container that can be dumped.

Yard Waste Pickups

- Saturday, September 22nd, curb side by 7:00Am • Saturday, October 20th, November 17th & December 8th. Residents may bring yard waste to a dumpster behind the Police Building on Saturday, July 21st & August 25th from 9am to 1pm.

Playground Safety

- Place this list in a prominent area of your home or house for quick reference. Then, before your children head out the door for the playground, check that:
  - Supervision is present, but strings and ropes aren’t.
  - Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.
  - All children play on age-appropriate equipment.
  - Preschoolers, ages 2-5, and children ages 5-12, are developmentally different and need
  - Falls to surface are cushioned.
  - Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playground surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.
  - Equipment is safe.
    - Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc.

Checklist is from the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at www.unl.edu/playground/
Reminders from the Building Department.

All pools, including above ground pools and kiddie pools with more than 24 inches of water, require a fence completely around the pool. Contact the Building Department at 610 692-1930 for specifications on pool fencing.

For those residents who are preparing their pools for the summer season, the discharge of pool water onto the streets is not permitted. All water from this preparation activity must be discharged on the property where it will soak into the soil.

All roofing projects requiring more than 25% of the roof to be replaced must apply for a roofing permit. If you are not sure contact the Building Department.

All fences now require a permit. Constructing a fence without a permit is a violation of Township Ordinances and may result in civil penalties.

Volunteering

It’s not nearly as time consuming as you might think…

I’ll bet you imagine we want ALL of your free time, don’t you??? Not even close.

The Parks & Recreation Commission has a need for a number of volunteers for assorted opportunities throughout the year. We can provide you with an opportunity to help out in your community whether you can spare one hour a month or can help at one event per year. We even have some projects if you work from home!

The Parks & Rec Top 10 List!

Volunteering with Parks & Recreation is a great way to:

1. finish off required service hours for school/scouts
2. get a free tour of Oakbourne Mansion
3. spend time as a family
4. get a SUPER parking space for “The Best of Westtown” Dog Show
5. get to know what parks are located in the township
6. get early registration for the Community Yard Sale!
7. feel good about where you live!
8. instill in your children a strong sense of being a PART of a community
9. get your creative energy back on track
10. give back

Sterling Autobody

Our Mission Statement: To consistently provide solutions for our customers through exceptional, personalized experiences with outstanding levels of employee engagement and commitment.

Environmentally Friendly Waterborne Based Shop

1 Reservoir Rd
West Chester Pa, 19380
Phone: 610-696-3336
Fax: 610-696-6171
Sterlingautobody.com

McCormick Taylor

www.mccormicktaylor.com

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Engineering, Planning, Environmental, Communications

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Thomas Chevrolet

West Chester is always TALKIN’ THOMAS!

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Suspicious Activity in Township

Recently the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department has noticed an increase in people hesitating to call the police to report suspicious activity in and around their neighborhoods. The police department would like to take this opportunity to encourage all citizens to report any and all suspicious activity that they witness. Please call as soon as possible after observing any suspicious activity so our response can be as quick as possible. Oftentimes it is a call of a suspicious condition that allows the police department to stop crimes before they happen. Should you see or hear something that you feel is suspicious you are encouraged to call 911 if you feel the situation needs an emergency response. If it is a non-emergency situation you may call 610-692-5100.

From Emergency Management

It’s almost summer, which means hurricane season, but hurricanes are not our only problem this time of year. The number one general risk in this area is flooding. Here’s a little information about this important threat.

FLOODING is the most frequent severe weather threat and the costliest natural disaster facing the nation. Ninety percent of all natural disasters in the U.S. involve flooding. And high-risk flood areas are not the only ones at risk: more than 20% of all flood insurance claims come from policies in moderate to low-risk areas.

CAUSES OF FLOODING

Hurricanes

Hurricanes can bring strong winds, heavy rains and storm surge in coastal areas. As hurricanes and tropical storms move inland, torrential rains and high winds can cause damage hundreds of miles from the coast. Hurricane Ike in 2008 was the third most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States. In Texas, Ike’s 100 mph winds, 13-foot high storm surge and 16 inches of rain destroyed thousands of homes and properties. Figures from NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center reports puts losses from the storm at $27 billion.

Tropical Storms

Wind speeds don’t tell the entire story when it comes to tropical storms. Intense rainfall, not directly related to the wind speed of a tropical storm, often causes the most damage. In November 2009, remnants of Tropical Storm Ida redeveloped into a strong coastal storm (nor’easter) that generated up to 18 inches of rain in many areas and caused major flooding along the Atlantic Coast. The storm caused an estimated $70 million in damage in Virginia alone. In 2011, T-S Lee caused some local problems, but the major impact will be further inland, where the Susquehanna River flooded from the New York border region all the way to Harrisburg.

Heavy Rains

All areas of the country are at heightened risk for flooding due to heavy rains. This excessive rainfall can happen during any season; putting property at risk year round. In April and May 2010, heavy rain and severe storms battered many Southern states, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Georgia. Western and mid-Tennessee were hardest hit with local rainfall amounts of 18-20 inches to the south and west of the Nashville metropolitan area. Flooding in the Nashville, Tennessee area alone caused more than $1 billion in damages.

If you live in a flood-prone area, be prepared. Have a family evacuation plan and a predetermined gathering place. Prepare a “go kit” that you can grab if a flash flood threatens your home, which contains food, water, medications (including your pet’s needs), and copies of your important documents. You should be prepared to provide for your family’s needs for three days while the emergency response personnel work to get to you.

Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department Summer Tips

With the summer vacation season upon us the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Dept would like to offer the following tips to you in an effort to help keep your home safe and secure while you are away:

• Inform as few people as possible of your vacation plans. Be cautious about posting on social networking sites as well. This includes newspaper and postal delivery people, unless you are going to be gone an extended period of time.
• Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are gone and to report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police department.
• Give emergency telephone or cell phone numbers, your itinerary, and a house key to your trusted neighbor.
• Ask them to pick up your newspaper, mail, and other deliveries daily.
• Ask your neighbor to place a filled garbage can in front of your house on collection day and make an effort to have the lawn mowed while you are away.
• Ask your neighbor to park their vehicle in your driveway occasionally. Do all these for your neighbor when he/she goes on vacation.
• Install dusk-to-dawn (photo cell) or motion sensor lights on all outdoor lights.
• Use automatic timers on a radio and lamps to simulate occupancy. Set these for your normal routine. For instance, a radio and lamp in the living room might be on from dusk until 10:00 PM then at 10:00 PM a lamp goes on in the bedroom and off at midnight.
• Lock all outside doors using quality deadbolt locks and shut and lock your windows. Lock your garage door.
• Store valuables in a safety deposit box or other secure area such as a home safe.

Now that you have learned some precautions to take for your home when you are away, you might want to go a step further and contact the police department to provide us with a “vacation notice” so that we are aware you will be away and can keep an extra close eye on your home and have your contact information should we need to get a hold of you.

Officers Honored

Detective Robert Balchunis was recently recognized by the Police Department as the 2011 Officer of the Year. This is an especially notable award as the members of the Police Department vote for the co-worker who has demonstrated a commitment to go above and beyond in their service to the community and the police department. Detective Balchunis was recognized at an East Goshen Twp meeting and received a plaque of recognition while surrounded by family and friends. Congratulations on a job well done Detective.

Detective Balchunis was also recently recognized by the Citizens Crime Commission for his efforts on an investigation. On May 17 Detective Balchunis (on the right in photo with Officer Darren Sedlack of West Goshen Police Department) was awarded the Chester County Outstanding Police Performance award for his efforts in an arrest of a major theft ring that held ramifications on the federal level. The residents of Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury should be proud to have such an outstanding Officer in the ranks of their police department.
Boy Scouts Refurbish Tyson Park

Members of Boy Scout Troop 222 recently performed greatly needed maintenance on the structures at Tyson Park, located along Oakbourne Road. The project was organized by Scout Jared Dovidio as part of his Eagle Scout project requirement. Eagle is the highest rank awarded in Boy Scouts. Jared planned the scope of work, researched the methods and materials used, raised funds to purchase the supplies and coordinated and managed the 30 plus volunteers who participated in the completion of the work.

The work included power washing the picnic pavilion structure and concrete floor, adjacent benches and the entire playground feature including the surrounding retaining wall. All wood areas were sanded where necessary and the pavilion was treated with a clear wood preservative. The playground and retaining wall was stained with a long-life coating, giving it enhanced color along with improved weather protection from the elements. The energetic group then spread 40 yards of ADA approved “WoodCarpet” mulch at the base of the playground for fall protection.

Police Unity Tour

During National Law Enforcement Officers Week in May of each year over 1,200 Officers ride their bicycles in a 4 day long ride to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC to raise awareness of officers killed in the line of duty. Recently Officer Theodore Cam of the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department’s Traffic Safety Unit took time from his busy schedule to bicycle for this very noble cause. From May 9, 2012 to May 12, 2012 Officer Cam biked over 440 miles in memory of Honolulu Police Officer Eric Fontes, who was struck and killed by an automobile while conducting a traffic stop. Officer Fontes was a seven year veteran of the Honolulu PD and is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. Officer Cam rode with Chapter 9 of the Police Unity Tour for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and was commended as the Chapter’s highest fund raiser with a total in excess of $6,000. The entire Chapter raised more than $80,000 and the Tour as whole brought in more than $1.6 million. The funds raised support the ongoing efforts of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum in Washington D.C. Let’s all take a minute out of our busy lives in memory of those who served as law enforcement officers and made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to community.

Pool Safety For Children

A swimming pool can be very dangerous for children. If possible, do not put a swimming pool in your yard until your children are older than 5 years. Help protect your children from drowning by doing the following:

• Never leave your children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment. An adult who knows CPR should actively supervise children at all times.

• Practice touch supervision with children younger than 5 years. This means that the adult is within an arm’s length of the child at all times.

• You must put up a fence to separate your house from the pool. Most young children who drown in pools wander out of the house and fall into the pool. Install a fence at least 4 feet high around all 4 sides of the pool. This fence will completely separate the pool from the house and play area of the yard. Use gates that self-close and self-latch, with latches higher than your children’s reach.

• Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd’s hook or life preserver) and a telephone by the pool.

• Do not use air-filled “swimming aids” as a substitute for approved life vests.

• Remove all toys from the pool after use so the children aren’t tempted to get back into it.

• After the children are done swimming secure the pool so they can’t get back into it.

• A power safety cover that meets the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) may add to the protection of your children but should not be used in place of the fence between your house and the pool. Even fencing around your pool and using a power safety cover will not prevent all drownings.

Remember, teaching you child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.
Refuse
When your refuse is collected by A. J. Blosenski, the Township’s contracted hauler, it is taken to the Lanchester Landfill in Honey Brook. The landfill is comprised of 600 acres located in the townships of Honey Brook, Salisbury and Caernarvon. The Landfill has been operated by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) since September 1984. CCSWA serves 49 Chester County Communities. In 2009 the Chester County Commissioners adopted a “flow control” ordinance which mandated which landfill a municipality would use. Westtown must use Lanchester for its refuse. The current tipping fee is $60.00 a ton which is broken down to benefit the host communities, the Pennsylvania Recycling Fund, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, and the County of Chester.

If you think the landfill is just a place to dump trash, think again. Lanchester has a no-charge drop off for recyclables which includes items such as antifreeze, cell phones, corrugated cardboard, aerosol cans and clean towels and blankets, items that you would not normally discard in our curbside recycling collection. The landfill has a separate composting area and an area for construction material. You may also take your family for a picnic at the “scenic overlook”, which has a 360 degree panoramic view of the Welsh Mountains and the Conestoga and Brandywine Valleys. The overlook is opened to the public from 1:00pm – 5:00pm on Sunday afternoons from May through October. There is a pavilion, picnic tables, and two binocular stations.

For more information please go to CCSWA’s website www.chestercountyswa.org. The address for Lanchester is 7224 28th Division Highway (Route 322), Narvon, PA 17555. Phone- 610-273-3771.

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Once your recycling is placed curbside and collected it belongs to the hauler. Recycling is source separated when collected and taken to their recycling center where it is sorted and baled. Once baled the recycling is sent to various companies to be manufactured into other products. There are many products being made from recycled materials. Check out the US EPA site on the web www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/buyrecycled.htm for additional information.

Wonder What Happens to Your Refuse/Recycling When it Disappears From The Curb?

Eastem Pennsylvania is a birding paradise and so are our backyards throughout Westtown. They provide wonderful habitat for many species of birds. There is always something interesting with feathers in my backyard, and next door, which makes the view and the walk outside worthwhile! My neighbors Carl and Ginnnie Bliss feed and care for the area’s blue birds. Carl devotedly and routinely finds worms and provides the environment to ensure their survival with his several blue bird boxes. Thanks to Carl, we have some very beautiful photos to supplement the Natural Lands Trust article on bluebirds in the last issue of the Westtown Gazette. The pioneers of American ornithology would be proud to see some of his simple backyard actions which have created needed habitat and provided pleasures as we look at the natural world right in our own backyards!

Supervisor Carol DeWolf

“Together again”

Thank You to our Advertisers
The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the businesses and organizations who have chosen to advertise in our newsletter and to recognize them as cornerstones of our community. Their support means that less tax money is spent to produce our newsletter. The Board would encourage residents to consider our advertisers merchandise and services as a means of thanking them for their support.

Aerial view of Lanchester

Bald Eagle spotted at landfill

Great White Egret
An overwhelming turnout and true success was had at The 2nd Annual Community-Wide Yard Sale at Oakbourne Park. On Saturday, April 28th, the Westtown Parks and Recreation Commission held the event for a second year in a row, doubling their number of sellers from last year and tripling the amount a patrons who participated. In 2011 the event supported 56 sellers and an estimated 600 hundred buyers. This year the event hosted 130 sellers with well over 2,000 buyers!

As this event has turned into an overwhelming success, parking became a true commodity. Parking was originally arranged for 800 cars. The parking area continued to fill up and volunteers took immediate action to erect additional parking areas and all 2,000+ cars were accommodated.

The sellers were truly amazed with the turn out! You could find items of all kinds, from housewares to clothing, tools, original paintings and artwork, and all sorts of knick knacks. Even “Oscar the Cat”, a homeless cat that was brought to the event by an animal rescue found a new home in Delaware!

Habitat for Humanity also participated and accepted items from sellers and buyers who wanted to donate items as a tax deductible donation to Habitat’s ReStore. Habitat’s “ReStore” has locations in Thornsdale, Media and Kennett Square. Residents who may have not participated in the yard sale also had the opportunity to stop by and drop off items at the sale that they wished to donate. Habitat for Humanity wishes to participate again next year as they were very pleased with the success they had at the event.

The Westtown Township Parks and Recreation Commission would like to thank The West Chester Fire Police and the West Chester Fire Company for assisting with traffic control out on South Concord Road and having one of their Engines featured at the event for young and old to have an opportunity to see how a fire engine operates. “College Hunks Hauling Junk” sponsored the event. Make sure to contact them for your summer & fall clean outs!

The Westtown Parks and Recreation Commission is now planning for next year’s event and are looking for volunteers and community participation to make this event an even better event for years to come. The event cannot be a success without your support. To become a volunteer please contact us at: parkrec@westtownpa.org/

The Parks & Recreation Commission wants to extend a HUGE thanks to these groups of volunteers for going above & beyond the call of duty. Without your help & assistance, the Community Yard Sale would NOT have been possible!

- West Chester University Friars
- Rustin High School students
- Stetson Middle School students
- Mark Gross and the Roads Crew
- Westtown Township office staff

- Good Will Fire Company
- Starbucks at 5 Points, West Chester
- Habit for Humanity
- College Hunks Moving Company
- Parks and Rec Crew FAMILIES!

Westtown’s Oakbourne Park

Westtown’s Oakbourne Park is the site of many summer activities including Movie Night (next feature will be Despicable Me on July 20th). There are many picnic facilities, a pavilion (which may be reserved for large groups), playground equipment, and many walking trails.
An overwhelming turnout and true success was had at The 2nd Annual Community-Wide Yard Sale at Oakbourne Park. On Saturday April 28th, the Westtown Parks and Recreation commission held the event for a second year in a row, doubling their number of sellers from last year and tripling the amount a patrons who participated. In 2011 the event supported 56 sellers and an estimated 600 hundred buyers. This year the event hosted 130 sellers with well over 2,000 buyers!

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A swimming pool can be very dangerous for children. If possible, do not put a swimming pool in your yard until your children are older than 5 years. Help protect your children from drowning by doing the following:

- **Never leave your children alone** in or near the pool, even for a moment. An adult who knows CPR should actively supervise children at all times.
- **Practice touch supervision** with children younger than 5 years. This means that the adult is within an arm’s length of the child at all times.
- **You must put up a fence** to separate your house from the pool. Most young children who drown in pools wander out of the house and fall into the pool. Install a fence at least 4 feet high around all 4 sides of the pool. This fence will completely separate the pool from the house and play area of the yard. Use gates that self-close and self-latch, with latches higher than your children’s reach.
- **Keep rescue equipment** (such as a shepherd’s hook or life preserver) and a telephone by the pool.
- **Do not use air-filled “swimming aids”** as a substitute for approved life vests.
- **Remove all toys** from the pool after use so the children aren’t tempted to get back into it.
- **A power safety cover** that meets the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) may add to the protection of your children but should not be used in place of the fence between your house and the pool. Even fencing around your pool and using a power safety cover will not prevent all drownings.

Remember, teaching you child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.
From Emergency Management

It’s almost summer, which means hurricane season, but hurricanes are not our only problem this time of year. The number one general risk in this area is flooding. Here’s a little information about this important threat.

**FLOODING** is the most frequent severe weather threat and the costliest natural disaster facing the nation. Ninety percent of all natural disasters in the U.S. involve flooding. High-risk flood areas are not the only ones at risk; more than 20% of all flood insurance claims come from policies in moderate to low-risk areas.

**CAUSES OF FLOODING**

**Hurricanes**

Hurricanes can bring strong winds, heavy rains and storm surge in coastal areas. As hurricanes and tropical storms move inland, torrential rains and high winds can cause damage hundreds of miles from the coast. Hurricane Ike in 2008 was the third most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States. In Texas, Ike’s 100 mph winds, 13-foot high storm surge and 16 inches of rain destroyed thousands of homes and properties. Figures from NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center reports puts losses from the storm at $27 billion.

**Tropical Storms**

Wind speeds don’t tell the entire story when it comes to tropical storms. Intense rainfall, not directly related to the wind speed of a tropical storm, often causes the most damage. In November 2009, remnants of Tropical Storm Ida redeveloped into a strong coastal storm (nor’easter) that generated up to 18 inches of rain in many areas and caused major flooding along the Atlantic Coast. The storm caused an estimated $70 million in damage in Virginia alone. In 2011, T-S Lee caused some local problems, but the major impact will be even farther inland, when the Susquehanna River flooded from the New York border region all the way to Harrisburg.

**Heavy Rains**

All areas of the country are at heightened risk for flooding due to heavy rains. This excessive rainfall can happen during any season; putting property at risk year round. In April and May 2010, heavy rain and severe storms battered many Southern states, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Georgia. Western and mid-Tennessee were hardest hit with local rainfall amounts of 18-20 inches to the south and west of the Nashville metropolitan area. Flooding in the Nashville, Tennessee area alone caused more than $1 billion in damages.

If you live in a flood-prone area, be prepared. Have a family evacuation plan and a predetermined gathering place. Prepare a “go kit” that you can grab if a flash flood threatens your home, which contains food, water, medications (including your pet’s needs, and copies of your important documents. You should be prepared to provide for your family’s needs for three days while the emergency response personnel work to get to you.

**Suspicious Activity in Township**

Recently the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department has noticed an increase in people hesitating to call the police to report suspicious activity in and around their neighborhoods. The police department would like to take this opportunity to encourage all citizens to report any and all suspicious activity that they witness. Please call as soon as possible after observing any suspicious activity so our response can be as quick as possible. Oftentimes it is a call of a suspicious condition that allows the police department to stop crimes before they happen. Should you see or hear something that you feel is suspicious you are encouraged to call 911 if you feel the situation needs an emergency response. If it is a non-emergency situation you may call 610-692-5100.

**Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department Summer Tips**

With the summer vacation season upon us the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Dept would like to offer the following tips to you in an effort to help keep your home safe and secure while you are away:

- Inform as few people as possible of your vacation plans. Be cautious about posting on social networking sites as well. This includes newspaper and postal delivery people, unless you are going to be gone an extended period of time.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are gone and to report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police department.
- Give emergency telephone or cell phone numbers, your itinerary, and a house key to your trusted neighbor.
- Ask them to pick up your newspaper, mail, and other deliveries daily.
- Ask your neighbor to place a filled garbage can in front of your house on collection day and make an effort to have the lawn mowed while you are away.
- Ask your neighbor to park their vehicle in your driveway occasionally. Do all these for your neighbor when he/she goes on vacation.
- Install dusk-to-dawn (photo cell) or motion sensor lights on all outdoor lights.
- Use automatic timers on a radio and lamps to simulate occupancy. Set these for your normal routine. For instance, a radio and lamp in the living room might be on from dusk until 10:00 PM then at 10:00 PM a lamp goes on in the bedroom and off at midnight.
- Lock all outside doors using quality deadbolt locks and shut and lock your windows. Lock your garage door.
- Store valuables in a safety deposit box or other secure area such as a home safe.

Now that you have learned some precautions to take for your home when you are away, you might want to go a step further and contact the police department to provide us with a “vacation notice” so that we are aware you will be away and can keep an extra close eye on your home and have your contact information should we need to get a hold of you.

**Officers Honored**

Detective Robert Balchunis was recently recognized by the Police Department as the 2011 Officer of the Year. This is an especially notable award as the members of the Police Department vote for the co-worker who has demonstrated a commitment to go above and beyond in their service to the community and the police department. Detective Balchunis was recognized at an East Goshen Twp meeting and received a plaque of recognition while surrounded by family and friends. Congratulations on a job well done Detective.

Detective Balchunis was also recently recognized by the Citizens Crime Commission for his efforts on an investigation. On May 17 Detective Balchunis (on the right in photo with Officer Darren Sedlack of West Goshen Police Department) was awarded the Chester County Outstanding Police Performance award for his efforts in an arrest of a major theft ring that held ramifications on the federal level. The residents of Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury should be proud to have such an outstanding Officer in the ranks of their police department.
Reminders from the Building Department.

All pools, including above ground pools and kiddie pools with more than 24 inches of water, require a fence completely around the pool. Contact the Building Department at 610-692-1930 for specifications on pool fencing.

For those residents who are preparing their pools for the summer season, the discharge of pool water onto the streets is not permitted. All water from this preparation activity must be discharged on the property where it will soak into the soil.

All roofing projects requiring more than 25% of the roof to be replaced must apply for a roofing permit. If you are not sure contact the Building Department.

All fences now require a permit. Constructing a fence without a permit is a violation of Township Ordinances and may result in civil penalties.

Volunteering

It’s not nearly as time consuming as you might think… I’ll bet you imagine we want ALL of your free time, don’t you??? Not even close.

The Parks & Recreation Commission has a need for a number of volunteers for assorted opportunities throughout the year. We can provide you with an opportunity to help out in your community whether you can spare one hour a month or can help at one event per year. We even have some projects if you work from home!

The Parks & Rec Top 10 List!
Volunteering with Parks & Recreation is a great way to:

1. finish off required service hours for school/scouts
2. get a free tour of Oakbourne Mansion
3. spend time as a family
4. get a SUPER parking space for “The Best of Westtown” Dog Show
5. get to know what parks are located in the township
6. get early registration for the Community Yard Sale!
7. feel good about where you live
8. instill in your children a strong sense of being a PART of a community
9. get your creative energy back on track
10. give back

DO... plant trees and shrubs along your stream.

**WHY:** The roots of woody plants stabilize the banks and reduce erosion. Trees and shrubs also shade and cool the stream, which is better for fish.

DO... leave naturally occurring debris, such as fallen logs, leaves and rocks in place in your stream.

**WHY:** In-stream debris provides shelter and food for aquatic life.

DO... maintain or create buffer zones (the wider the better) along streams and wetlands.

**WHY:** Buffer zones absorb water and filter out lawn chemicals, fertilizers and sediment.

DON’T... remove native vegetation from stream banks.

**WHY:** Leaf litter from native plants is part of the aquatic food chain.

DON’T... dump swimming pool water or essay water directly into streams or storm sewers.

**WHY:** Storm sewers run directly into streams, where phosphates and detergents harm fish and plants.

DON’T... mow your lawn right up to the stream.

**WHY:** Turf does not make a good buffer. It tends water, especially on slopes, and its shallow roots do not hold the soil as well as native grasses, trees, or shrubs.

DON’T... throw grass clippings or yard waste into your stream—compact them.

**WHY:** Grass clippings and debris reduce oxygen in the stream, killing fish and other aquatic life.

NEVER DUMP OIL, ANTIFREEZE OR TOXIC CHEMICALS. DISPOSE OF THESE AT APPROVED DISPOSAL CENTERS.
Playspace Safety

Place this list in a prominent area of your home or house for quick reference. Then, before your children head out the door for the playground, check that:

- Supervision is present, but strings and ropes aren’t.
  - Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.
- All children play on age-appropriate equipment.
  - Preschoolers, ages 2-5, and children ages 5-12, are developmentally different and need different equipment located in separate areas to keep the playground safe and fun for all.
- Falls to surface are cushioned.
  - Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playground surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.
- Equipment is safe.
  - Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc.

Checklist is from the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at www.uni.edu/playground/
HOLIDAY PICKUPS: The Following are the official holidays for A. J. Blosenski when your trash will not be collected: New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your makeup days are: Monday pickup your trash and recycling will be collected the Saturday before the holiday. Thursday pickup your trash and recycling will be collected the Saturday after the holiday.

PREPARATION OF RECYCLING: at the bottom of this page is a summary of how to prepare your recycling for pickup. We are not a single steam collection therefore you must separate your recyclable items from your paper items. All glass, bimetal cans, plastic #1 to #7, and aluminum cans are to be comingled in your recycling bin. Newspapers, junk mail, magazine, phone books, etc are to be tied or in a brown paper bag.

LARGE ITEM COLLECTION: Large items will be picked up at your last scheduled pickup each month. You are allowed three items, such as, dish washer, couch, chair, water heater, etc. If you are not sure about an item please contact the Township.

Available at the Township office is information on where to discard items such as polystyrene packaging peanuts, propane tanks, automotive waste, Aluminum buy back centers, batteries, computer recycling, cell phones, and Fluorescents. Also available are brochures on how to compost, make a rain garden and rain barrels.

Discarding of Paint – latex paint can go in your regular trash. Make sure the can is empty and dry with the lid off. The paint can be hardened by putting down newspapers and kitty litter or sand and pour the paint on top. The paint will harden and you can roll up the newspapers and place in your trash can. Oil based paint can be taken to a hazardous waste collection.

Bulk Pickup – If you have any item with Freon (refrigerator, air conditioner) you must have the Freon removed, and a sticker on the item stating that it has been removed, as it will not be picked up on your bulk pickup date. Call the Township Office for information on Freon removal.

Recycling Bins available at the Township office – no charge.

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.
The Township Board of Supervisors has been working on the finalization of the Act 537 Plan for the eastern portion of the Township. In accordance with the Consent Order and Agreement, the Township has until September 30, 2012 to submit a revised Act 537 Plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). If the Township is unable to develop a plan acceptable to the DEP, the Township will be ordered to implement the 2007 Act 537 Plan for all gravity sewers.

The Township Board of Supervisors held two public sessions in April. At these meetings the Board received extensive comments from residents affected by the draft plan. The Board has considered those comments in developing a submission to DEP within the timeframe imposed by the consent order.

As a result of the residents’ comments, the Board has adopted a revised course of action. Rather than submit an Act 537 plan providing for a low pressure collection system, the Board plans to put forth a plan for handling sewage in that area through an on-lot management program wherein the Township will monitor and enforce certain maintenance criteria.

Parallel with this, Westtown will finalize preparation of the proposed low pressure plan so that it is available should DEP reject the on-lot management approach.

It is anticipated that the Township will have another public hearing in July. The scheduling of this hearing is dictated by the September 30th deadline and the requirement for review of the plan by the County and Township agencies.

In 2012, Westtown will be continuing with its road paving program by undertaking the paving of a total of approximately 1.2 miles of Township roadway. The roads to be resurfaced include the following:

- Dogwood Lane: From Goodwin Lane northbound a total of 885 linear feet.
- South New Street: South of W. Pleasant Grove Road - 332 linear feet, and from the Township line to Dunvegan Road - 1,920 linear feet.
- Shady Grove Way: From Street Road (Pa Route 926) northbound to Johnnys Way. A distance of approximately 3,228 linear feet.

The project will include the milling of the road to a depth of 1 ½” and an overlay of 1 ½”. Where necessary, a base repair of 4” depth shall be made.

In addition a stormwater drainage system will be constructed at the intersection of South New Street and General Howe Drive.

It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken during the summer months.

The actual schedule for the paving will be posted on the Township website when it is received.