



WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP
 From the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors



MANAGER'S REPORT ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE

In the summer of 2011, Westtown Township came to an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PA DEP") on a Consent Order which would set a timetable for completion of a revised Township Act 537 Plan. This is a document which identifies the areas in which the public sewers shall be extended at this time and a plan for dealing with those areas into which the public sewers are not to be extended within the next five years.

As part of the Consent Order, the Township was given until September 30, 2012 to finalize its Act 537 Plan. In determining the areas which will and will not receive public sewer, the Township is following the standards established by the PA DEP. Specifically, determination of the areas into which the public sewer would be extended are to be based on the criteria of the soils mapping, the age of the residence, the lot sizes, and the records obtained from the Chester County Health Department concerning repairs to existing systems.

For those areas in which it is determined that the PA DEP standards do not require the extension of public sewer, the Township will be required to implement an on-lot sewage management program. The Township will be required to keep records of all on-lot systems and to enforce the proper maintenance of those systems. Specific homeowner requirements will include regular system pumping, in accordance with recommended PA DEP and Chester County Health Department standards.

At this time, the Township is in the process of finalizing its Act 537 Plan. The Township expects to schedule public meetings to provide information to the residents who may be affected by the proposed sewer extensions. At these meetings, the Township Board of Supervisors will be detailing the elements of the draft Act 537 Plan and will seek public input. Additional information for these meetings will be posted on the Township website.

Once completed, the plan will need to go to PA DEP for their approval. Once that is received the Township will be required to implement the various elements of the Township Act 537 Plan within specified time frames as will be detailed in the final Plan.

Finally, it should be noted that, while the Act 537 plan will be finalized later this year, it is possible that this could be amended in the future. As circumstances change, the need for public sewers could change and the Act 537 Plan may need to be revised to reflect those changes.

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Westtown Township ~ Chester County, Pennsylvania

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 1197 Wilmington Pike - Rt. 202 & 926
 West Chester, PA 19382

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 FIRST MONTH'S RENT

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Advent Lutheran Church
 1601 Green Lane (Rt. 352, Just South of Rt. 3)
(610) 436-0807
 www.e-advent.org

Worship 8:00am & 10:30am
 Sunday School ~ 9:15am (Sept-May)
 Summer Worship Schedule ~ 9am

Flea Market May 12th
8am to 2pm





WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF CHESTER

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Charles P. Barber, Chair

Thomas F. Haws, Jr., Vice Chair

Carol R. DeWolf, Police Commissioner

Street Address: 1039 Wilmington Pike • West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

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

Phone: (610) 692-1930 • **Fax:** (610) 692-9651 • www.westtownpa.org
(Comments for the Manager & Board of Supervisors) - supervisors@westtown.org

CHESTER COUNTY USEFUL CONTACTS 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 – 610-344-6692

License Bureau (Dog, Fishing, Hunting) 610-344-6370

Marriage License Bureau 610-344-6335

Office of the Ageing 610-344-6009

Passports 610-344-6050

Recorder of Deeds 610-344-6330

Tax Assessment 610-344-6105

Tax Claim/Lien Bureau 610-344-6360

Voters Services 610-344-6410

Chester County Conservation District - 610-696-5126

West Chester Area School District

829 Paoli Pike, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

Main Number 484-266-1000

School Tax 484-266-1035

State Senate District - 26th District

Edwin B. Erickson – Local 610-853-4100 – State 717-787-1350

email: eerickson@pasen.gov

State House District – 168 District

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

Email: tkillion@pahousegop.gov

U. S. Senator

Pat Toomey – Local- 1-215-597-7200 – Federal – 1-202-224-4254

www.toomey.senate.gov

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

www.casey.senate.gov

Congressional District – 7th District

Patrick Meehan – Local 610-690-7323 – Federal – 1-202-225-2011

www.meehan.house.gov

Bulletin Board

Yard Waste Pickups

Yard waste must be placed at the curb before 7am in biodegradable paper bags or open containers which can be dumped. Saturdays – April 14th, May 5th, and June 9th. Residents may bring yard waste to a dumpster behind the Police Building on Saturday, July 21st from 9am to 1pm.



Community Yard Sale
April 28th
Oakbourne Park
See the article on page 10.

New Chester County Website

Chester County has launched a website dedicated to promoting sustainable planning practices – www.chescoPAGreen.org. The website will feature tips on energy and water conservation, smart growth and smart transportation.

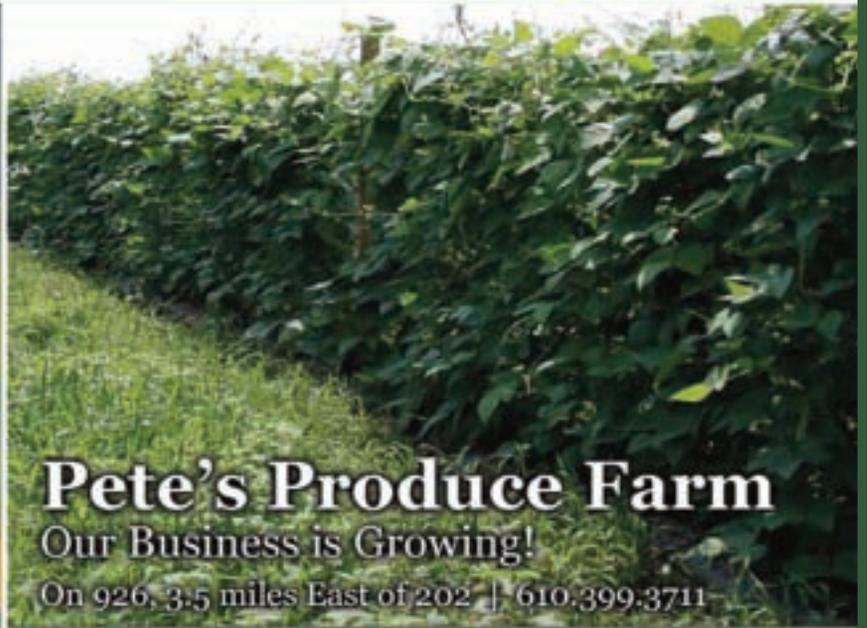
For Police, Fire, and Medical EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911
For NON-EMERGENCIES, dial 610-692-5100



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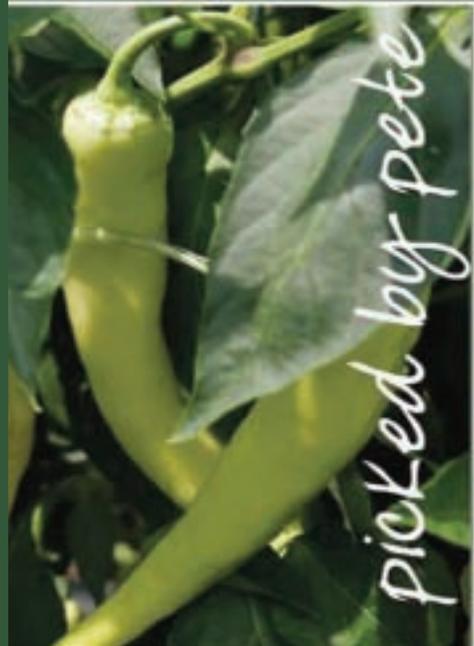


Pete's Produce Farm

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On 926, 3.5 miles East of 202 | 610.399.3711

sold at pete's



picked by pete



Pete's is open
during the growing season.
Opening April 19, 2012



ROUND TWO FINANCING



While interest rates remain at all time lows, many homeowners are refinancing their mortgages to lower their monthly payments. Similarly, in late 2011 the Township successfully refinanced a portion of callable bond debt to realize savings of more than \$622,000 net, after all costs. Fortunately, the rates continued to slip even further to the lowest rates since 1967. Our two part strategy proved successful and the "round two financing" of the remaining \$7.4MM callable bonds proved more lucrative than anticipated. Typically, a target savings of at least 3-4% of refunded principal justifies refinancing. This effort achieved an astounding 14.5% net present value savings which translated into a \$1,018,000 reduction in interest payments for the remainder of the bond term. The strong Moody rating of Aa3 remained unchanged thereby enabling bonds to be sold without the issuance of bond insurance.

The spectacular combined savings of the two refinancing efforts of nearly \$1,640,000 will improve the Township's financial cash flow over the next fifteen years. Refinancing a home mortgage could also save a considerable amount. Many lenders are offering refinancing with little or no closing fees. In the current economic times, a little extra cash or a shortened mortgage term could improve your financial position. If you have not refinanced recently, you may be surprised at your savings!

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HIRES LAW FIRM TO COLLECT DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL CLAIMS

Westtown Township has hired Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. to collect its delinquent sewer and trash fees. Portnoff utilizes state law that allows the costs of collection to be imposed upon the delinquent taxpayers, creating incentive for them to pay, and reducing the burden of collection costs on the overall tax base.

Each delinquent property owner will receive a notice advising him or her of the balance due. Attached to the notice will be a schedule of legal fees that Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. will potentially assess against the property if the property owner fails to respond to the notice.

Recipients of the notice will be afforded a thirty-day grace period within which to make payment arrangements. Property owners with large balances will be permitted to enter into payment arrangements of up to six (6) months and a hardship program allowing longer payment terms will be available to owner occupants experiencing financial difficulties.

After the grace period ends, Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. will proceed with legal action on the unresolved accounts. Delinquent property owners who have failed to make payment arrangements or request hardship accommodations will be assessed the legal fees and costs associated with the collection of their accounts.

Property owners should contact Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd., promptly upon receipt of the notice to avoid additional charges.



Thank You To The Businesses

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents. The Township would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.

**FREE 38 Point Inspection
with an Oil Change**

Jim Sipala's Kia
KIA
West Chester

\$19.95
Plus Tax

Limit one per customer. Cannot combine with any other offer. Disposal fee extra. Exp. 6/28/12





Dear Friends, Neighbours and Fellow Citizens:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm personal greeting to you. I want you to know that I am personally thankful for your continued faith and trust in me. I am committed to continuing to strengthen our community in the coming year. It is the sworn obligation of a Judge to ensure that every case tried in his or her Court is adjudicated expeditiously, courteously, and according to law, with the fullest protection for the rights of all who are involved. I try daily to follow this belief.

This is my annual "State of the Court" address to the citizens of Westtown Township. 2011 was a busy year for our court. I am proud to report that the state of Magisterial District Court 15-2-03 remains solid, sound and stable and will remain intact with the statewide redistricting.

Pennsylvania's Magisterial District Courts are courts with limited jurisdiction. As I have explained in the past more than 90% of all litigation in Pennsylvania occurs in the courtrooms of Magisterial District Judges. Chester County currently has 19 Magisterial District Courts. All summary misdemeanor and felony criminal cases originate at the Magisterial District Court level. Magisterial District Courts are also the venue for lawsuits in civil cases up to \$12,000.00 as well as the filing and disposition of minor criminal cases (summary cases) such as traffic violations, disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, truancy, game law violations, and parking tickets.

One of the crucial concerns of any public institution today, is the issue of security, and our sense of safety as individual citizens. Magisterial District Courts and their Courtrooms are where citizens come to resolve their legal disputes, and surely we have a right to safe and relatively secure Courts. I am happy to report our court is one of the safest in the county.

As a Magisterial District Judge I conduct preliminary hearings for all serious criminal offenders to determine which cases should be held for trial at the Court of Common Pleas (the trial court). I also set and accept bail and arraign defendants after arrest. This could happen day or night. I issue search warrants based upon testimony from our local police force, state police and the state's Attorney General's office.

Public trust and confidence begins with a fair and impartial judiciary. Every day I and the other District Judges work to provide resolution of disputes, to protect constitutional rights, and to uphold the rule of law. District court 15-2-03 is one of the busiest district courts in the county. Our caseload for the year 2011 was 5,617 cases filed. The cases filed in 2011 broke down as follows: 413 criminal cases, 307 civil cases, 3,654 traffic cases, 226 Landlord Tenant cases, and 1017 summary cases. For the year 2011 the gross amount of revenue District Court 15-2-03 took in was \$859,545.69. Of that Westtown Township received \$52,155.12.

District Court 15-2-03 is located at the Government Services Center (GSC) 601 Westtown Road, Suite 110 West Chester, PA 19380. Our telephone number is 610-436-5757, our fax number is 610-431-5755 and the Court website is www.chesco.org/judgekraut. The Court's hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM. The Court's jurisdiction includes Westtown Township, West Goshen Township and Thornbury Township Chester County.

My door is always open. If you have any suggestions on making the court run more efficiently or how our court can better serve the public please let me know. Keep in mind that I cannot and will not discuss a case that I am to hear. The court staff nor I can give legal advice to the public, so please do not get angry at the staff when they tell you they cannot answer your questions. They are under strict orders not to give legal advice. The public and I are very fortunate to have the staff that is employed at our court. They are a dedicated, hard working and conscientiousness group of people. Without them the court would not run as effectively and efficiently as it does.

I am available to speak to civic groups, scouts, and schools. Tours of the Court are available for schools and scouts.

In closing as I start each day I try to remember the following" the most extraordinary aspect of the judiciary in a free society is that even while exercising the authority entrusted to them, judges remain the servants, not the masters, of those on whom they sit in judgment."

William D. Kraut, Magisterial District Judge
Westtown, West Goshen & Thornbury



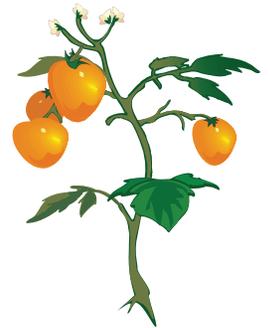
Judge Kraut administers the Oath of Office to new Westtown Supervisor Tom Haws in January.



Community Garden at Oakbourne



The Community Garden members are planning another great year of activities and vegetable growing in our raised bed garden boxes. Last year we had a great group of gardeners who can impart their experiences to help you grow some of your very own vegetables easily. The annual fee for a garden box is \$25. We still have space for some new folks to join us! The raised be boxes are \$150 and we help you to construct them.



Please contact Helen Greer at the township office to obtain the associated forms and phone numbers of who to contact to join our gardening community at Oakbourne Park.

GREEN NEWS FROM THE CHESTER RIDLEY CRUM CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Stormwater Basin Naturalization Updates - Thursday, May 17, 2012 7pm - Edgmont Municipal Building, 1000 Gradyville Road. The program is being organized by Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) as a followup program for homeowner associations to two prior lectures on the topic. The featured speaker for the May meeting will be Megan Gonzales, Registered Landscape Architect with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC). Ms. Gonzales will review low cost strategies for converting lawns, including basins, and provide examples and costs of recent projects.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive by 6:30 pm for a guided field view of the nearby White Horse Village naturalized stormwater basin. Attendance is free but attendees are requested to preregister with CRC at crc@nni.com or 610-892-8731

Mussel Power

Does your creek have "mussel power"?

Did you know that freshwater mussels are the most imperiled group of animals in the United States? This is even of greater concern given all of the benefits they bring to our streams. Mussel beds strengthen streambeds against erosion and filter large quantities of water, removing nutrients and toxins (one mussel can filter up to 10 gallons a day!). For example, PDE Science Director Danielle Kreeger has located one older bed of approximately 500,000 mussels in the Lower Brandywine River which she estimates is removing 25 tons of pollutants each year, about 7% of the total load. Unfortunately, none of the mussel beds



discovered so far have been found to be reproducing. Freshwater mussels can live up to 100 years but if they are unable to reproduce their valuable benefits to water quality will slowly disappear as the beds die off.

This past fall, Kreeger installed several trial mussel beds in Ridley Creek in Upper Providence to see if they will survive and most importantly if conditions are suitable for them to reproduce.

On Saturday, May 12, 2012, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and CRC will hold a lecture and training for volunteers interested in helping with the mussels project at Pavilion 8 at Ridley Creek State Park from 9 to 11 am. Participants will first hear Ms. Kreeger speak and then can follow staff biologist Angela Padeletti to a stretch of Ridley Creek in the Park to learn how to identify mussel beds in their local creeks. Volunteers will receive sufficient training to be able to correctly survey designated sections of their local creeks for the presence and non-presence of mussels and report back to CRC and the Partnership to be included in their survey.

One or two group "Flex Your Mussels" survey days will be held in June and July to cover specific reaches of Ridley, Chester, and Crum Creeks, and volunteers can also sign up to survey tributaries additional sections on their own sometime this summer. Two likely meeting places will be Okehocking Preserve with CRC and Supplee Valley Preserve with the East Goshen Conservancy Board. Please pre-register for the free training with CRC at crc@nni.com or 610-892-8731.



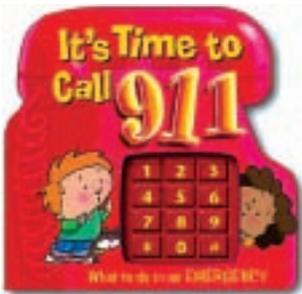
New Juniors Driver's License Laws in PA

As of December 27, 2011 new requirements took affect for Junior Driver's licensing in Pennsylvania.

Here is a brief overview of the major changes that have occurred:



- * Once a driver obtains a junior license they will now need to complete 65 hours of behind the wheel skill building (10 hours of that is to be during the night time and 5 hours during inclement weather). Driving an hour at night in bad weather does not count for both requirements...only one or the other.
- * A responsible licensed driver age 21 or older can provide the training.
- * The child's parent or guardian must sign off on a certification form (DL-180C) acknowledging the training has been completed.
- * Passenger restrictions are now as follow: A person with a Junior Driver's license (under 18) can only have one non-family member passenger. After 6 months and if the driver has had no traffic violations or reportable accidents then the limitation changes to 3 passengers, these rules apply until the driver turns 18 years old.
- * If a parent or guardian is in the car then the limitation does not apply nor does it apply if the passengers are immediate family members.
- * Seat belt violations are now primary offenses meaning that a police officer can stop you and issue you a citation if you are seen not wearing your seat belt...drivers are also responsible to make sure all passenger's are seat belted as well.



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 about 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.

Officer of the Month

Officer Gary Frey is a 14 year veteran of the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department. Of those 14 years with the Department, 10 have been with Traffic Safety Unit. Officer Frey graduated from East High School and attended West Chester University. He is a general aviation pilot and an avid motorcyclist who enjoys spending time with his German shepherd dog. Officer Frey's specialized duties on the Traffic Safety Unit include enforcing regulations and provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (tractor trailer and other large Commercial Motor Vehicles) for which he holds a special certification as a Motor Carrier Enforcement Officer. Officer Frey is also a PA state Certified Inspection Mechanic. Officer Frey is a member of the Chester County Serious Accident Reconstruction Team and is certified as an on scene Accident Collision Investigator as well as a Commercial Vehicle Accident Investigator. He holds numerous other training certifications that allow him to apply specialized skills in ensuring the roads and highways of Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury are safer due to his presence.



Don't forget about all the FUN & FREE things being brought to you by your
TOWNSHIP'S PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION!

Join us for . . .



**Time For Another
 Successful
 Westtown
 Township Yard
 Sale!**

Participate by selling or buying or both!
 Go to www.westtownPA.org/parkandrec.htm
 for more information.

Join us for these fun and family-friendly events,
 brought to you by the Parks & Recreation
 Commission

Community-wide Yard Sale April 28 10 am – 1 pm
 (rain date will be May 5).

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS



1. Friday, June 22
 8:15 pm

Secretariat
 rated PG

2. Friday, July 20
 8:15 pm

Despicable Me
 rated PG

(No voting this year, since these two movies won top votes
 last year, but the constant rain kept them from being seen.)



**The Fifthth Annual
 Best Of Westtown
 Dog Show**

Saturday, September 22, 2012
 10am - 12pm



**Westtown Winter
 Festival**

Sunday, December 2,
 2012
 3pm - 5pm



All events will be held at Oakbourne Park (1014 S. Concord Road).
 Go to www.westtownPA.org/parkandrec.htm for more information.

These are the family-fun events for the year!! So, join us! All events are scheduled to be held at Oakbourne Park on South Concord Road. More information about our events can be found at: www.westtownpa.org/parkandrec.htm

Please contact us if you are willing to get involved. It's just a small commitment of your time... we don't bite.
 Email us at parkrec@Westtown.org to express your interest in any or all events.
 You can even help while working from home!

Prescription Drug Take Back Event



Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department will conduct a "Take Back" program for unused or expired prescription medications on Saturday, April 28, 2011, from 10am to 2pm in the lobby of the Police Building at 1041 Wilmington Pike.

Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.



News from the Building Department



NEW FENCE REGULATIONS

The Westtown Township Zoning Ordinance, 170-1505 which relates to fences and walls was amended on February 6, 2012. The entire Ordinance is online. Go to www.westtownpa.org and click on Codified Ordinances. Fence regulations are in 170-1505.

This ordinance was amended because some standardization was required to regulate the installation of fences in the Township. Many fences were being installed that violated portions of the existing fence ordinance. It was decided that requiring permits for new fences would cause the installers and/or owners of such fences to follow the rules more closely.

A summary of the ordinance is as follows:

1. A permit is required for the installation of all fences exceeding 40 feet in length and within the front, rear or side setback areas except for fences enclosing agricultural uses or those constructed in conjunction with a permit for the installation of a swimming pool. A plot plan locating the fence shall be submitted with the permit application.
2. A fence located within the front setback of any yard shall have a maximum height of five feet and have a ratio of open to structural areas of at least 1:1.
3. A wall within the minimum front building setback shall have a maximum height of three feet.
4. A fence or wall located within a minimum principal building setback, other than the minimum front building setback shall have a maximum of height of six feet (decorative posts tops may extend above six feet).
5. If one side of a fence is more smooth or finished than the other side of the fence, the smoother or more finished side shall face onto any abutting residential lot or public road.
6. No fence or wall shall be constructed within the existing or future right-of-way of a street, nor in any location that would obstruct a permanent easement. (Note: If the fence is to be located on a corner lot, 170-1501 prohibits anything over 18 inches in the clear sight triangle at

intersections.)

7. Fences and their support materials shall be placed entirely within the boundaries of the property being fenced. If the fence is to be located on or near the property line and property owner cannot demonstrate that the property line location is known and identified in the field, as well as on the permit plot plan, the Township may require a survey of the property.
8. The repair or replacement of any fence that currently exists as of the date of the adoption of this ordinance shall not require a permit.

As previously mentioned the entire text of the ordinance is not printed above and only the highlights are printed here.

PERMIT REQUIRED FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT



It should be noted that the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) of Pennsylvania, formally adopted by all Townships and Municipal governments requires a roofing permit if more than 25% of their total roof surface is being replaced.

Westtown has not previously required a roofing permit for a replacement roof. In order to fully comply with the UCC Westtown Township will require a permit when more than 25% of its total roofing surface is being replaced.

The roofing contractor will have to apply to the Westtown Township Building Department for a permit and furnish the following before the permit is issued:

1. Style, type and manufacturer of roofing shingles or other roofing material.
2. Style and weight of underlayment material.
3. Description and location of all roof/attic vents.
4. Description of all flashing materials including valley, wall, and plumbing vents.
5. Insurance certification as well as HIC registration with the Pennsylvania Attorney General Office in accord with PA Act 132-2009.

The Westtown Township building department inspector will inspect the under-layment, the flashings, roof ventilation, and shingle installation before issuing a

Certificate of Occupancy (or Completion) on every permitted roofing project.



NEWS FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Westtown Township Parks and Recreation commission will be hosting the Second Annual Township, Community-Wide Yard Sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity on Saturday April 28, 2012 from 10:00AM-1:00PM. The event will be located at Oakbourne Park, 1014 South Concord Road, West Chester, PA 19382. Vendors from the five county Philadelphia area will be selling all kinds of items including: Collectables, Antiques, Furniture, Clothes, Games/Toys, Movies, Books, China & Silverware, Crafts, Seasonal Items, Gifts, Tools, Plumbing/Contracting Material and much more.

This event is one of the areas Largest Yard Sale with over 120 Vendors and over 1,000 participants expected. Vendors are still welcome to participate and space is available. The cost to be a vendor is only \$5.00 per space and multiple spaces/consecutive spaces may be purchased. For more information, visit: www.westtownpa.org and click on the Park and Recreation page.

Habitat for Humanity of Chester County will be present throughout the event collecting items members of the community wish to donate. They will also bring merchandise from their Habitat ReStore to be sold at a reduced price at the yard sale. All donations are tax deductible. Items that may be donated include:

- Appliances
- Kitchen cabinets
- Ceiling fans
- Flooring Materials-ceramic, tile, vinyl-unopened boxes only
- Gently used home and office furniture
- Hardware for doors, cabinets, etc.
- Insulation (new)
- Lighting products-chandeliers, lamps, etc.
- Miscellaneous tools
- Paint
- Roofing materials, shingles – only in bundles
- New mattresses
- New windows or doors
- Pet supplies
- Housewares dishes (sets only), artwork, home decor
- Granite or Corian counter tops
- Sinks and toilets (white only)
- Clothing

To learn more about Habitat For Humanity and their upcoming community project please visit their website at: www.hfhcc.org This event is being sponsored by College Hunks Hauling Junk and College Hunks Moving, www.collegehunks.com. For more information about the event please contact Westtown Township at 610-692-1930 or visit www.westtownpa.org or email: ParkRec@westtownpa.org.



Bluebirds In Your Backyard

Courtesy of Natural Lands Trust's Center for Conservation Landowners

"The bluebird carries the sky on his back." Henry David Thoreau

It's hard not to smile when you see a bluebird. With their beauty, cheerful song, and springtime activity, they have come to symbolize love, happiness, and renewal. While bluebird populations have been increasing over the last few decades, their numbers are still low. Read on to learn more about this charming native bird and how you can help make your yard—or community—more bluebird friendly!

Bluebird Basics

The Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) is a member of the thrush family. About the size of a sparrow, the showy male bluebird is a bright blue with a reddish breast and throat. The female is a lighter blue with a more subdued orange-brown breast and throat and a grey head.

Bluebirds generally prefer grassy, open areas with a few scattered trees that the birds use for perching and nesting. This type of meadow habitat offers a great source of insects—such as caterpillars, earthworms, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, sow bugs, snails, and spiders—which make up the majority of their warm-weather diet. Bluebirds are often spotted swooping to the ground to snatch a juicy critter, then fluttering to a nearby perch to consume it.

Bluebirds are secondary cavity-nesters; their beaks are not strong enough to excavate their own nests so they re-use cavities created by other birds like woodpeckers or use human-made nest boxes. The male entices the female to join him by bringing nest material to the cavity and showing off with a flutter of his wings. Then the female takes over, building the remainder of the grass-and-moss nest and incubating a clutch of two to seven eggs by herself.

Human Impact

Like many grassland bird species, bluebird population levels are directly affected by human activity and land use. In fact, with only one exception (weather), historical changes in bluebird populations have been directly correlated with the results of human activities. Bluebird populations grew steadily in the latter part of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries as enterprising settlers cleared the forest and planted crops. During the height of their population, bluebirds were as common as American Robins are today. But their numbers declined dramatically in the middle of the last century with the loss of open space to development, changes in farming practices, increased reliance on pesticides, and the introduction of invasive bird species like the House Sparrow and the European Starling that compete with bluebirds for nesting sites.

Lend a Helping Hand

Bluebird populations have rebounded in the last 30 years, due in large part to awareness about their decline and efforts to support them. Consider the following "dos and don'ts" so you can help bluebirds in your community:

- DO: Add wooden nest boxes to your property or contact local officials to encourage nest box installation on township property (local parks or sports fields can be ideal locations).
- DO: Place nest boxes in open areas away from woodlands

(though the birds prefer to have scattered trees within 50 feet of the nest boxes) about 100 yards apart at density of about one per acre. (Simple nest box plans can be found at: www.sialis.org/plans.) Install boxes by March 1 as bluebirds begin nesting in early April.

- DO: Monitor nest boxes and clean out old nests after baby birds have fledged to encourage a second brood.
- DO: Consider converting a portion of your property from lawn to native meadow grasses, which offer ideal feeding grounds for hungry bluebirds.
- DO: Plant native trees and shrubs (such as dogwoods, viburnums, winterberry holly, bayberry, hackberry, blueberries, chokeberries, shadbush, and red cedar) that will provide fall/winter food and shelter for bluebirds.
- DON'T: Don't install nest boxes in wooded areas or too close to shrubbery, which invites attacks by House Wrens.
- DON'T: Don't mount boxes on trees or fence posts; both provide easy access for predators like raccoons and snakes.
- DON'T: Don't use pesticides or herbicides in your garden or lawn, if you can avoid it.
- DON'T: Don't get discouraged if bluebirds don't nest in your box the first year as it can take some time for them to find the cozy home you've installed for them.

About Natural Lands Trust:

Natural Lands Trust is the region's largest land conservation organization and is dedicated to protecting the forests, fields, streams, and wetlands that are essential to the sustainability of life in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. Natural Lands Trust owns and manages 40 nature preserves totaling nearly 21,000 acres, and holds conservation easements and other restrictions exceeding 19,000 acres. For more information, visit www.natlands.org.



About the Center for Conservation Landowners: Natural Lands Trust established the Center for Conservation Landowners (CCL) to share its broad-based experience in land stewardship with landowners throughout eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. The CCL offers educational opportunities as well as a suite of consulting services to landowners and land managers interested in restoring and cultivating the rich and complex habitats native to this region. For more information, contact Drew Gilchrist, director, or 215-272-1982.



CALENDAR SCHEDULE

The following are the dates for spring yard waste collections:

Saturday, April 14th, curb side by 7:00Am
 Saturday, May 5th, curb side by 7:00Am
 Saturday, June 9th, curb side by 7:00Am
 Saturday, July 21st dumpster police station 9:00Am – 1:00Pm

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates:

Good Friday – April 6th.
Memorial Day – May 28th.
July 4th

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

APRIL

Board of Supervisors – 2nd & 16th
Planning Commission – 18th
Parks & Recreation – 10th
Yard Waste Collection – Saturday 14th curb side
 7:00Am
Friends of Oakbourne – 19th (Oakbourne Mansion
 7:00Pm)
Parks & Recreation Yard Sale – Oakbourne Park –
 Saturday 28th 10:00Am

MAY

Board of Supervisors – 21st (May 7th meeting
 canceled – State Convention)
Planning Commission – 9th & 23rd (if needed)
Parks & Recreation – 8th
Yard Waste Collection – Saturday – May 5th curb
 side 7:00Am

JUNE

Board of Supervisors – 4th & 18th
Planning Commission – 6th & 20th (if needed)
Parks & Recreation – 12th
Yard Waste Collection – Saturday 9th – curb side
 7:00Am
Parks & Recreation – Movie Night Oakbourne Park –
 Friday 22nd, 8:00Pm

JULY

Board of Supervisors – 2nd & 16th
Planning Commission – 4th & 18th (if necessary)
Parks & Recreation – 10th
Parks & Recreation – Movie Night Oakbourne Park –
 Friday 20th, 8:00Pm
Yard Waste Collection – Saturday 18th, Dumpster –
 Police Station 9:Am -1:00Pm

SPRING REMINDERS FROM THE GOSHEN FIRE COMPANY

While it is hard to believe how mild a winter we had this year, it is likewise amazing how beautiful our early spring weather has been. Throughout the communities that we serve, residents are busy sprucing up their yards and contributing to the aesthetic beauty of the community. Our activities likewise reflect a change of seasons with improved weather during our response and delivery of emergency services. The weekly classroom training sessions of the winter months have been replaced with an aggressive schedule of outside training activities involving our fire, emergency medical services, and fire police divisions.



We trust that you changed the batteries in your smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors when you recently set your clocks ahead. Smoke detectors save lives and ensuring that you have adequate operational smoke detectors in your home can save the lives of you and your family. This nice weather has also triggered the appearance of a variety of lawn equipment and barbeque grills throughout the community. Please be reminded of the importance of proper use of these devices and storage of their fuel sources.

As always we continue to engage in a variety of fundraising activities to ensure that we have necessary resources to continue to provide quality services to the communities that we serve. We ask for your support of these activities including our upcoming flower sales which will be held at Station 56 located at Boot and Greenhill Roads on Friday through Sunday of both Easter and Mother's Day weekends.



RECYCLING & TRASH INFORMATION



FREE ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT: The Chester County Solid Waste Authority is sponsoring a **FREE** electronics “almost anything with a cord, except items containing Freon” collection event on Friday, April 27, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the East Brandywine Township Building parking lot 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown (Rt. 322 Guthriesville).

This is an opportunity for residents to safely dispose electronic equipment (no white goods or items containing Freon). Large business size units will not be accepted. Acceptable items are CPUs/laptop computers, computer monitors, peripherals, printers, desktop and stand-alone personal printers, CRT and Non CRT Televisions. Also accepted are answering machines, camcorders, cell phones, docking stations, electric typewriters, personal size fax/copy machines/duplicators, microwaves, pagers, radios, rechargeable batteries, remote controls, stereo/tape/CD players, telephones and equipment, testing equipment, toner/ink cartridges, VCR/DVD players, gaming consoles/controllers, toasters, irons, blenders, mixers, coffeemakers, vacuums, power tools, hair dryers, curling irons and electric adding machines.

DO NOT BRING large appliances (stoves, dishwashers, washers/dryers etc.), items containing mercury (such as thermostats etc.), gas powered items (lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.) or appliances with Freon (refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, etc.) For more information, call 610-273-3771 ext. 228 or visit www.chestercountyswa.org.

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 CARBORD 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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Sunday services:

Traditional - 8:00, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Radio WCHE 1520AM broadcast, Sunday at noon

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Childcare provided at all services

Wednesday morning:

Prayer and Communion Service - 9:10 a.m.

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