The Westtown Gazette

THE QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

From the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Carol R. DeWolf, Chair
Charles P. Barber, Vice Chair
Thomas A. Foster, Police Commissioner

April 2009
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
  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

CARS OF ENGLAND
Saturday, June 6th - "Cars of England" at Oakbourne Park, hosted by Delaware Valley Triumph and Delaware Valley Jaguar Club.
See page 4

TOWNSHIP TENNIS COURTS – OAKBOURNE PARK
A Reminder: You must purchase a key to use the tennis courts. Keys are available at the Township office. This is a one time fee. The cost for residents is $20.00. For non-residents the cost is $35.00.

WESTTOWN GAZETTE BY EMAIL
Residents who would like to receive the Westtown Gazette via email, please contact Sandi Preston in the Township Office. The email version will arrive several days earlier and the pictures will be in color.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF IKENOBO IKEBANA
The Philadelphia Chapter of Ikenobo Ikebana meets at Oakbourne Mansion twice a year. Visiting professors from Kyoto come to teach the traditional styles along with the newest styles and methods in ikebana. Fresh flowers are used and the arrangements are critiqued by the professor. The meetings are open to the public - a fee is charged and reservations required.
See Calendar page 10

SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP
Grass clippings, branches (3 foot length) and leaves (in biodegradable paper bags only), will be picked up on the following Saturday, April 25th and May 9th.
See Township Calendar on Page 6
On Lot Sewer Inspection

In June 2007, the Board of Supervisors completed a series of four public hearings on the extension of the public sewer system. Based on the comments received at those hearings, the Board decided to undertake an on-lot inspection program. The information obtained from that program could better define those areas into which the public sewers needed to be extended and those where it is not necessary.

Initially, the plan was to inspect all the on-lot systems over the course of a year. A cornerstone of this program was that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) would provide the funding for a majority of the program, making the cost more affordable to the citizens involved. The program was delayed for some time due to the fact that PA DEP would not accept the scope of the program. After numerous discussions, the program was refined in a manner acceptable to PA DEP.

Subsequent to that time was the economic meltdown of the fall of 2008 and the budget crunch in the state. Funding for this or any other state-established program became more questionable. Recognizing the inability of the citizens of the Township to fund such a program and at the same time understanding the need to address the sewer needs of the Township, the Board has decided to take a slower approach to the effort. Rather than undertake the inspection of all on-lot systems in one year, several sections of the Township will be selected for the initial survey. Additional lots will be inspected in future years, as PA DEP approves.

The Board will soon be holding public hearings on this.

Proposed Field Lighting Ordinance

On March 4th, 2009 the Board of Supervisors received public comment on the proposed ordinance relating to the installation of lighting for outdoor sports facilities. Based upon those comments, the Ordinance was redrafted and has been submitted to the Chester County Planning Commission for their review. Upon receipt of their comments the Board will advertise a public meeting during which the ordinance will be considered for adoption.

**Highlights of the ordinance are:**

- Lighting maybe installed and operated on an outside sports facility for a total of twenty (20) events per year.
- The number of events may be extended by three (3) in the case of playoffs.
- Lights will be installed in a manner which prevents glare on neighboring properties.
- Impacts such as noise and traffic are to be addressed in a manner that lessens the impact on the adjoining neighbors.
- Lights are to be extinguished by 10:00PM.
- Lights to be limited to one field on any one campus.

Once the ordinance is adopted, any relevant party may make an application to the Township Board of Supervisors which will consider the plans as part of a conditional use process.

In the case of the Rustin High School it would be necessary for the applicant to also approach the Zoning Hearing Board. This step is necessitated by a decision of that Board in 2003 which approved the construction of the High School.
The British Are Coming!
“Cars of England” Auto Show Comes to Westtown

Classic Jaguars, MGs, Triumphs, Morgans, Bentleys and many other British cars will be on display at Oakbourne Park on Saturday June 6 for the “Cars of England” Concours d’Elegance. British car clubs from all over the Delaware Valley are holding their nationally known competitive auto show in Westtown for the first time. More than 200 vintage sports cars can be viewed all day long. Many motorcycles including Nortons, BSAs, Vincents and Triumphs will also be part of the show. The proud owners will be happy to answer all of your questions.

The cars are on display to the public from 10:00 a.m. until the late afternoon. In the event of rain on Saturday, the show will take place on Sunday, June 7. General admission is $5 per person or $12 per carload. Reduced admission for seniors is $4 and $3 for children 6 to 17. Children under 5 are free. Plenty of parking is available right in front of the Mansion.

Hot food and beverages will be available. Music and entertainment to include an authentic bagpiper will play all day long. Auto-related merchandise and “guy stuff” will be for sale. For the ladies, fashion-related vendors will also be on hand.

In addition to seeing the cars, attendees are invited by the Oakbourne Mansion Commission to tour the Mansion and the grounds. They will be serving refreshments to include cold drinks, pastries and ice cream. The Chester County Master Gardeners will be conducting tours of the Oakbourne Arboretum and will be happy to answer any gardening question.

Any car buffs needing more specific information about the event or the car clubs involved can call the Show Hotline at (215) 822-0726 or (215) 757-2028.

When you come, don’t be surprised if you see Austin Powers, James Bond and John Steed. We hear they all are looking for a new ride with some British class.

Eva Foster,
Oakbourne Mansion Commission
I am honored to present my annual “State of the Court” address to the citizens of Westtown Township. 2008 was a very busy year for our court. The volume of cases filed in District Court 15-2-03 increased by 10% in 2008. I am proud to report that the state of Magisterial District Court 15-2-03 remains solid, sound and stable.

Pennsylvania’s Magisterial District Courts are courts with limited jurisdiction. More than 90% of all litigation in Pennsylvania occurs in the courtrooms of Magisterial District Judges. Chester County has 19 Magisterial District Courts. All summary misdemeanor and felony criminal cases originate at the Magisterial Court level. Magisterial District Courts are also the venue for lawsuits in civil cases for amounts up to $8,000.00 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. There is legislation proposed to increase the Court’s jurisdictional limits in civil matters from $8,000.00 to $15,000.00. This will have a significant impact on the volume of cases heard by Magisterial District Courts.

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. I also set and accept bail and arraign defendants after arrest. I issue search warrants based upon testimony from our local police forces 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 2008 was 6,474 cases filed, up from 5,910 cases in 2007. The cases filed in 2008 broke down as follows: 357 criminal cases, 525 civil cases, 4,257 traffic cases, and 1335 summary cases. For the year 2008 the gross amount of revenue District Court 15-2-03 took in was $1,069,862.00. Of that Westtown Township received $32,926.12.

During the past year I could not help but notice rising demands for mental health services, truancy cases, increasing numbers of drug crimes, DUI related matters, and incidents of domestic violence. Those plus more appearances by self-represented litigants, shifts in our economy, and a more diverse population are some of the changes that have affected our townships and placed different and greater demands on our court.

District Court 15-2-03 is located at the Government Services Building (GSB) 601 Westtown Road, Suite 110 West Chester, PA 19380. Our telephone number is 610-436-5757 and our fax number is 610-431.5755. The court’s hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM. The court’s jurisdiction includes Thornbury Chester County, Westtown Township and West Goshen Township. Coming this year will be the court website.

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 can not answer your question. 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 as it does. Let me close by taking this opportunity to thank them.

William D. Kraut
Magisterial District Judge
Westtown, West Goshen & Thornbury
WESTTOWN-EAST GOSHEN DETECTIVE MIKE RAGNI

Detective Mike Ragni is a 17 year veteran of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department and is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division. Before being assigned to CID, Det. Ragni served 10 years in the Patrol Division. Det. Ragni also serves on the West Chester Regional Emergency Response Team as an Assistant Squad Leader. The West Chester Regional Emergency Response Team is comprised of specially trained Officers from the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department, West Goshen Police Department, West Chester Police Department, East Whiteland Police Department, Easttown Police Department and the Uwchlan Police Department trained to respond to critical incidents.

Det. Ragni holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Mansfield University. While obtaining his degree Det. Ragni played 4 years of college football and served as Captain in his senior year. His hobbies include hunting, skiing and spending time with his family. Det. Ragni is a resident of Chester County and is married with 4 children.

TRAFFIC COUNTS

From March 2nd to June 30th, 2009, PennDOT will conduct traffic counts on local roads. This data is needed to update the formulas used to determine Federal funding for road projects.

Listed below are the roads that will be studied in Westtown Township, Chester County. The traffic counter should be set between the Beginning Intersection and Ending Intersection. If you see counters set on any roads not listed please contact PennDOT at 717-787-5796 or e-mail ra-penndottrafficstats@state.pa.us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Name</th>
<th>Beginning Intersection</th>
<th>Ending Intersection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MANLEY RD</td>
<td>DIANE DR</td>
<td>MUNICIPAL LINE ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUNVEGAN RD</td>
<td>DUNVEGAN RD WEST RD</td>
<td>W NIELS LN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATION WY</td>
<td>SR 2007 SR</td>
<td>CUL-DE-SAC TC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIELDING DR</td>
<td>SISSINGHURST DR</td>
<td>COCKBURN DR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAGE RD</td>
<td>OAKBOURNE RD</td>
<td>SAGE RD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREEN LN</td>
<td>SR 0003 SR</td>
<td>SR 0352 SR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENNSBURY DR</td>
<td>CHESTERVILLE WY</td>
<td>LONDON DERRY DR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOWER COURSE DR</td>
<td>BAYWOOD RD</td>
<td>FIELDING DR</td>
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</tbody>
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A Message from the Fire Marshal

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 20,900 reported home structure fires involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment in 2005. These fires resulted in 500 civilian fire deaths, 1,100 civilian fire injuries, and $862 million in direct property damage.

Facts & Figures

- Lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs accounted for the largest share of the 2002-2005 home structure fires involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment.
- Cords and plugs accounted for the largest share of the 2002-2005 home structure fire civilian deaths involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment.
- Some type of electrical failure or malfunction was cited as factor contributing to ignition for 73% of electrical distribution or lighting equipment home structure fires.

➤ Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
➤ Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
➤ In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
➤ Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.
➤ Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.
➤ Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
➤ If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
➤ When possible, avoid the use of “cube taps” and other devices that allow the connection of multiple appliances into a single receptacle.
➤ Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp’s recommended wattage.

Top causes of electrical fires

There are several ways you can assess your risk and make simple changes to reduce the hazards that may be present in an electrical system. By ensuring that your home undergoes a thorough electrical inspection completed by a qualified electrician before buying, selling, or remodeling a home, you can help make certain your home’s electrical system operates at the highest level of safety possible.

Electrical system

According to NFPA, every year, fires that start in electrical systems or lighting equipment result in 320 civilian deaths and 830 civilian (non-firefighter) injuries, with damage to more than 24,000 homes.

Lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs

According to the National Fire Protection Association, lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs (28%) and fixed wiring (22%) accounted for the largest share of fires among major types of electrical distribution equipment. Cords and plugs (39%) accounted for the largest share of civilian deaths. Lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs (30%) accounted for the largest share of civilian injuries.

Extension cords

According to NFPA, extension cord fires outnumbered fires beginning with permanent or detached (cords that can be detached from appliances) by more than two-to-one. For civilian deaths, the ratio is more than three-to-one. For civilian injuries, the ratio is more than four-to-one.

If you should have any questions regarding electrical safety or any other fire safety topic, please feel free to call the office or email the Fire Marshal at Fire.Marshal@westtown.org and we will do our very best to provide the answers you need.

Robert Gliem

Donald Herb

Fire Marshal
Assistant Fire Marshal
After the harsh winter weather, spring time is an excellent opportunity to assess the condition of the exterior of your property.

**TREES SHRUBS AND BUSHES.**

Check all trees for dead or loose branches. Dead or loose branches can be easily spotted before the spring buds obscure your view. This is also the time when the service of an arborist tends to be a less expensive and you might be able to arrange for a pruning or cutting back those trees that may have become overgrown. A good rule for the exterior of the house is that nothing green, or alive, should ever touch the house. Keeping vegetation away from the house reduces the possibility of moisture which will cause deterioration of wood. Without moisture, insects, and fungus cannot survive.

**ROOF, DOWNSPOUTS AND GUTTERS**

Do not attempt to gain access to your roof unless you are physically able and experienced in walking on roof surfaces. Even a relatively low sloped roof can be slippery under certain circumstances. Have a local roofing contractor evaluate the condition of your roof. Often, minor repairs, made in a timely fashion, will allow the roof to reach its full, expected service life. Rain gutters should be cleared and inspected for proper drainage and downspouts should also be cleaned and arranged so that the water discharges not less than 10 feet from the foundation wall system. Keeping water away from the foundation will help to keep your basement area dry.

**EXTERIOR GRADING**

The exterior grade around the house should slope downward away from the house at a rate of one inch of drop for every 12 inches of horizontal distance from the foundation wall. Special care should be taken with the application of mulch in the foundation plantings. Mulch should not be placed in such a way that it makes contact with any wood surfaces. In houses with concrete or concrete block foundations it is typical for the wood framing to begin about eight to twelve inches above the top of the masonry. The mulch should, therefore, be kept no higher than the top of the foundation wall system. Do not allow mulch to build up around the air conditioning compressor unit because it will decrease air flow and degrade the efficiency of the unit.

**WOOD TRIM, FRAMING, ETC.**

All exterior wood surfaces should be inspected for loose, chipped, cracked, or peeling paint. Loose paint should be scraped, the area sanded and new primer and fresh paint applied. Areas that do not receive sufficient sunlight will typically have some staining from mold or mildew.

These areas should be washed with a solution of water and tri-sodium phosphate. Be sure to follow the manufacturer’s directions and always wear rubber gloves and eye protection when using this washing system.

**STAIRS, RAILINGS, AND WALKWAYS**

Check all stairs and walkways for loose concrete or other unstable surfaces. Repairs should be made so that all surfaces are solid and no loose areas or tripping hazards are present. Driveways should also be checked for ruts, holes or loose material which can be easily repaired with materials such as “cold-patch” for asphalt surfaces and many readily available concrete patch materials available at the larger “box” stores.

Only attempt to do the work that you can safely handle. For projects beyond your ability always consult and hire a reliable contractor.

John Wilson
Code Enforcement Officer
This year for Earth Day...  
go clean a creek!

Saturday, April 18, 2009  
9 AM - 11 AM

Join Chester-Ridley-Crum  
Watersheds Association and  
Westtown and Thornbury Townships  
for the 4th Annual Chester Creek  
Earth Day Cleanup!

Let’s clean up Chester Creek!

Meet at Goose Creek Park, 840 East Street Road  
(behind the Goose Creek Grill)  
Wear old shoes or boots. Heavy gloves and bags will be supplied.

Come early for Free Starbucks Coffee and Bagels.  
Water and other refreshments will be available before and after.

For more information:  
Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association  
phone: 610-892-8731  
e-mail: crc@nni.com  
on the web at:  
www.crcwatersheds.org

To sign up for this event:  
contact Site Coordinator:  
Kelly Keller  
e-mail:  
kellykeller@comcast.net  
phone: 484-716-3998
SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP – SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH AND SATURDAY, MAY 9TH.

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates:

   April 10th, Good Friday
   Monday, May 25th, Memorial Day
   Friday, July 3rd, Independence Day

Memorial Day is a holiday for A. J. Blosenski, if your normal trash/recycling pickup is Monday your makeup day is May 23rd the Saturday before.

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

Parks Advisory Group and the Oakbourne Mansion Commission meet as needed.

April

Board of Supervisors*** – 6th

*** Meeting scheduled for April 20th has been canceled.

Planning Commission – 8th and 22nd

Ikenobo (Japanese Flower Arranging)** –
April 20th and 21st, Oakbourne Mansion Meeting Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

** Reservations required, fee charged. Please contact Helen Flair (610) 399-0258.

May

Board of Supervisors – 4th and 18th .
Planning Commission – 6th and 20th

June

Cars of Great Brittan Auto Show* – 5th, and 6th, Oakbourne Park

† See article on page 4. Admission $5 Adults, $3 Youth (6-17), $4 Seniors, $12 per car-Family up to 4

Board of Supervisors – 1st and 15th
Planning Commission – 3rd and 17th

July

Board of Supervisors – 6th, and 20th
Planning Commission – 8th and 22nd

Friends of Oakbourne – 9th Oakbourne Mansion Meeting Room, 7:00 PM
RECYCLING AND TRASH INFORMATION

SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP – Leaves must be in the brown biodegradable bags. Branches 3’ in length. Please have out by 7:00 AM.

Computer Recycling – Staples Office Supply Store is now collection used computers/printers at all their locations. There is a charge of $10.00 item.

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

GRASSCYCLING

IT’S OK TO “LET IT LAY”

Did you know your lawn can produce more than three tons – nearly 260 bags of grass clippings each year? Think of the time, money and effort to bag all those clippings? It is not necessary to go through all that hassle. You can have a healthy green lawn by leaving grass clippings where they fall. Grass Clippings left on the lawn decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. You lawn will remain healthy and green because each time you mow, you will return valuable nutrients to the soil. Any mower can recycle grass clippings. If it is time to replace your mower consider a mulching, recycling or nonpolluting reel mower. All of them do a good job of shredding and scattering grass clippings. Clippings can be used for composting, mulching and as a soil additive. Please contact the Township Office for more information on grasscycling.

A REMINDER TO ALL COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL, SCHOOLS AND APARTMENTS.

State Act 101 mandates that all properties, not just residential, must be recycling. You should be recycling the following items: Newspapers, office paper, junk mail, magazines, cardboard, aluminum cans, glass bottles, bi-metal cans, and plastic - #1 & #2. Your trash hauler is required to report to the Township annually what is being recycled. Please contact the Township Office if you have questions concerning this mandate.

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. |
| Yard Waste (excluding leaves): May be included in regular pickup. Bags of grass not to exceed 50 lbs. Branches acceptable in tied bundles no longer than 3’ in length. |
| 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. |
A.J. BLOSENSKI, INC.
Trash & Recycling Service

A.J. Blosenski, Inc. specializes in prompt deliveries, efficient and personalized service to meet the needs of our customers at all times.

For complete waste removal services call, 610-942-2707
Fax: 610-942-2495

Service Includes:
Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Construction Special Pick-Up • Roll Off Container Service

ajblosenski@nni.com • www.ajblosenski.com