

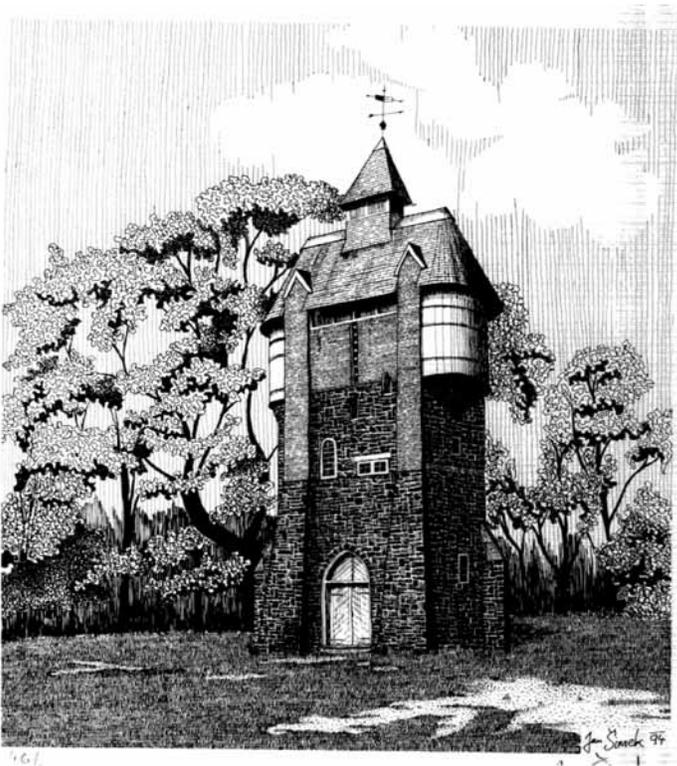
***Westtown Township***

***1039 Wilmington Pike***

***P.O. Box 79***

***Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395***

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# **The Westtown Gazette**

THE QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

From the Westtown Township Board of Supervisors

Carol R. DeWolf, Chair

Charles P. Barber, Vice Chair

Thomas A. Foster, Police Commissioner

**April 2009**

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

# The Westtown Gazette

Volume XIII, Issue 2

Westtown Township, County of Chester

Second Quarter 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  
Arlen Specter – Local – 1-215-597-7200 – Federal – 1-202-224-4254  
Robert Casey – Local – 1-215-405-9660 – Federal – 1-202-228-0604  
[www.casey.senate.gov](http://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

Westtown Township \* Chester County \* Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Street Address:** 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA 19382-7370

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

**Phone:** (610) 692-1930 \*\* **Fax:** (610) 692-9651 \*\* **E-mail** (questions for the Township office) - [info@westtown.org](mailto:info@westtown.org);  
(Comments for the Manager & Board of Supervisors) - [supervisors@westtown.org](mailto:supervisors@westtown.org) \*\* **Website:** [www.westtownpa.org](http://www.westtownpa.org)

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

## 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.

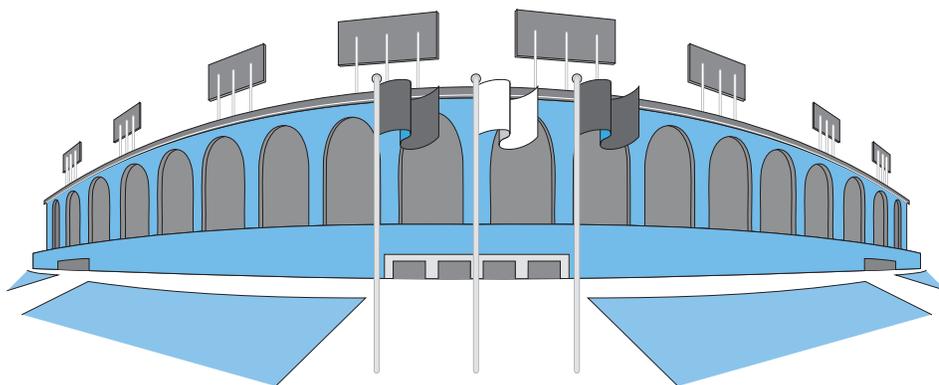
### Highlights of the ordinance are:

- 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*



HON. WILLIAM D. KRAUT  
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE  
15<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF CHESTER

## STATE OF THE COURT 2008

### District Court 15-2-03 Westtown, West Goshen & Thornbury Townships

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 District 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 conscientious 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

## BEHIND THE BADGE

## 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

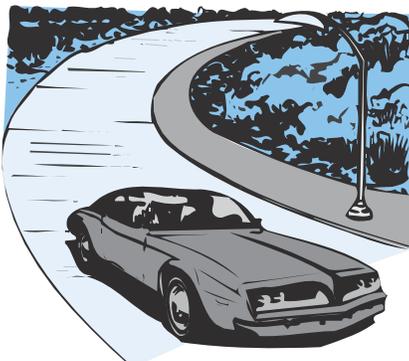
include hunting, skiing and spending time with his family. Det. Ragni is a resident of Chester County and is married with 4 children.



## 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-pennidottrafficstats@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-pennidottrafficstats@state.pa.us)



Street Name	Beginning Intersection	Ending Intersection
MANLEY RD	DIANE DR	MUNICIPAL LINE ML
DUNVEGAN RD	DUNVEGAN RD WEST RD	W NIELS LN
STATION WY	SR 2007 SR	CUL-DE-SAC TC
FIELDING DR	SISSINGHURST DR	COCKBURN DR
SAGE RD	OAKBOURNE RD	SAGE RD
GREEN LN	SR 0003 SR	SR 0352 SR
PENNSBURY DR	CHESTERVILLE WY	LONDONDERRY DR
TOWER COURSE DR	BAYWOOD RD	FIELDING DR



## 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](mailto:Fire.Marshal@westtown.org) and we will do our very best to provide the answers you need.

*Robert GliemDonald Herb  
Fire MarshalAssistant Fire Marshal*



# 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 **4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:crc@nni.com)

on the web at:

[www.crcwatersheds.org](http://www.crcwatersheds.org)

**To sign up for this event:**

contact Site Coordinator:  
**Kelly Keller**

e-mail:

[kellykeller@comcast.net](mailto:kellykeller@comcast.net)

phone: 484-716-3998

## PLANNING CALENDAR

### 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**



**REFUSE & RECYCLING**

**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.

<b>How to Prepare Items for Recycling</b>
<b>Glass—Green, Brown &amp; Clear:</b> Bottles or Jars only. Rinse Clean. Remove lids and rings. Labels may be left on. <i>NO plate glass, ceramics, drinking glasses, etc.</i>
<b>Plastic:</b> Must be marked with #1 through #7 inside triangle on bottom. Rinse clean. Remove lids and discard. Labels may be left on. <i>NO unmarked containers or containers marked with other than #1 through #7 inside the triangle on bottom.</i> No antifreeze or motor oil containers.
<b>Aluminum Beverage Cans:</b> Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. No bottle or jar lids, no pie plates or aluminum foil. <i>No other aluminum items.</i>
<b>Bi-Metal Cans:</b> Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. Examples include pet food cans, soup cans, vegetable cans. <i>NO cans with plastic parts. NO paint or aerosol cans.</i>
<b>Newspaper, Magazines, Phone Books, Junk Mail, small cardboard boxes (cereal, crackers, etc) &amp; Office Paper:</b> Combine in paper bag or bundle and tie.
<b>Yard Waste (excluding leaves):</b> 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.
<b>Cardboard Boxes:</b> Must be cut in <u>three foot squares</u> , 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](mailto:ajblosenski@nni.com) • [www.ajblosenski.com](http://www.ajblosenski.com)