

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

Thomas A. Foster, Chair

Charles P. Barber, Vice Chair

Carol R. DeWolf, Police Commissioner

July 2011

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

The Westtown Gazette

Volume XV, Issue 3

Westtown Township, County of Chester

Third Quarter 2011

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 Aging – 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 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
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

YARD WASTE

Since Yard Waste cannot be collected with regular trash, the Township has made arrangements for a dumpster to be located in the field behind the Police building between 9AM and 1PM on Saturday, July 16th and Saturday, August 20th. Residents can bring yard waste in biodegradable bags or open containers to be dumped.

Curbside yard waste pickups will resume in the fall. The first pickup will be Saturday, September 24th.

REVISED MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

The July Showing of Mary Poppins has been moved to Friday, July 22nd. Christmas in July has been canceled due to scheduling problems.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

The make-up collection for 4th of July will be Saturday, July 2nd.

The make-up collection for Labor Day will be Saturday, September 3rd.

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;
(Comments for the Manager & Board of Supervisors) - supervisors@westtown.org ** Website: 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.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

BRIDGES

Westtown Township has had a history of bridge problems. In 2000 the Oakbourne Road bridge washed out. At about the same time, what was known as the "Singing" bridge on Route 926 and the bridge on Westtown Road were out of commission.

Last September, the heavy storms washed out the Oakbourne bridge again. At that time it was necessary to close the road as continued traffic over the bridge would have resulted in its collapse. At the same time, the South New Street bridge showed signs of strain. Although it was not seriously compromised and it was not necessary to close that bridge, it was determined that some repairs would be required so that the bridge did not become inoperable.

Repair of the Oakbourne bridge began early in June. The Goose Creek flooding had created a large void behind the east abutment of the bridge and a smaller void on the western end. Repairs involved pumping concrete into these voids to restore the integrity of the structure. As this newsletter goes to the printer, work is complete on the eastern end, and it is expected that the bridge will re-open before the target date of July 1st.

As part of the road maintenance program for 2011, Westtown is looking to undertake the reinforcement of the New Street Bridge. Over the years, occasional flooding of Radley Run has caused the ground on which the bridge abutment sits to wash away. While this has not caused an immediate threat to the integrity of the bridge itself, it has created a condition which, if unchecked, will cause an eventual bridge collapse. The Board of Supervisors decided that, even though budgets are tight, it would be prudent make the necessary repairs before the situation becomes worse.

The work to be done will involve establishing a firmer foundation for both the south and north abutments. In addition, rock will be placed in the area of the abutments in an effort to mitigate the scouring effects of the rushing water. It is not expected that the bridge will be closed except for short periods during the repair efforts.



Oakbourne Road Bridge - Re-opened, June 24, 2010

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Westtown Community Garden at Oakbourne



Our community is fortunate to have many options for obtaining locally grown foods. We now have one more opportunity to grow your own organic vegetables in this community garden. Are you ready to start doing some gardening and care to share some lessons

learned and friendship with our garden community, please join us if so. The garden community members have completed some phenomenal tasks to get this garden up and growing. The first planting of the summer of our expectant multi-season garden looks great. This is happening aside the play area and pavilion at Oakbourne Park.

Fifteen raised beds were crafted by the garden group. The boxes were then lined with newsprint, and the soil shoveled into each box. Fence building began immediately after. Again many hands made the work somewhat easier. We learned about cementing the wooden posts, securing the metal fence posts between them and to the fencing and installing the fencing around the garden. The gate has been crafted and is soon to be installed. Rain barrels will soon be located inside the fence. Voila! The planting began and the gardens are now flourishing! We also now have a yahoo group to communicate with one another.

Join us if you care to become a garden member and have a box of your own located here in the garden by sending an email to: cdewl@aol.com or calling the township at 610-692-1930. We still have space and will continue to grow in size and numbers of folks involved. It is not too late to start certain veggies now and in the fall.

The yearly garden fee is \$25.00, and the cost to create the raised bed box has been estimated to be \$150.00. This wonderful community of gardeners is also planning some upcoming events to share the lessons learned and to enjoy a pot luck to celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

Kudos to Richard Frechette of Troop 66 for the day's service, and his unwavering assistance shoveling on one very hot day! Thanks to Jonathan De Wolf for rising to the occasion to assist in the early morning hours after returning from college! You really made a difference and we all thank you.

We have a great crew of amazing young gardeners who are a part of the garden experience. As you can see by the photos, which is a small sampling of all the kids involved, we have several families taking this as a learning opportunity for their children to garden, to make good food choices and learn about nature. Kudos to the parents who are guiding them in such good ways.

A very heartfelt thanks to Craig at Haines Tree Service for donating and delivering the five truck loads of chips, Mark and staff of the Westtown Public Works Department for handling the augering of the holes for the fence posts—a great help! And most of all, everyone for the many hands who have created a wonderful garden of opportunities and friendship for us all!



A Perfect Day at Oakbourne

Eva Foster, Oakbourne Mansion Commission



The two Jaguars in front of the Oakbourne tower show that Jaguar competed with Rolls and Bentley for the luxury full-sized market before focusing its main efforts on sports cars.

sitcom "Get Smart", you can imagine Agent 86 driving a featured car, a 1966 Sunbeam Tiger.

It was a special day for the Jaguars. It was the 50th anniversary of the Jaguar XKE. Special presentations were made along with many fond memories. An outstanding example of the Jaguar and the dedication of the owners was a 1953 Jaguar XK120, purchased new, that was driven to the show by Centenarian Fred Mack. You may have seen Fred on TV being interviewed after he parachuted from an airplane on his 100th birthday. I can hardly wait to see what he'll do for his 101st birthday!

If you like British motorcycles, they were there in force as well. There were Nortons, Triumphs and BSAs. Two bikes especially drew a crowd. One was a 1935 Norton ES2 and the other was a 1946 Norton B18. Westonians John Floyd and Bill Chesko showed their Triumph Thunderbirds.

The ladies were not forgotten. There was excellent shopping inside the Mansion. Debby Bradley of That's Hats in Chadds Ford brought a wonderful array of ladies

and gentlemen's hats, just right for going to the races or driving with the top down. To see more of Debby's hats, go to her website at www.thatshats.com. Sylvia Sanzone brought her collection of handcrafted European stoneware and a special selection of handmade purses. Sylvia contact information is oestoneware@zoominternet.net. John and Nancy Mitchell of LaCigale brought the most exquisite linens. Their main shop is in Provence, France and their U.S. location is in Mt. Gretna, Pa. To see some of their gorgeous linens, go to their website at www.lacigale-usa.com. Also, I can't forget the great food from New Street Catering who fed the hundreds of people who came to the car show. They are affiliated with West Chester University and are a must see at www.newstreetcatering.com.

While the cars, food and shopping were excellent, the best part of my day was meeting so many amazing people. The vendors, the exhibitors and the gentlemen who coordinated this event are great but our wonderful Westtown residents who came out to support this event are the "Best in Show". Thank you so much for coming and supporting Oakbourne Park & Mansion and the Cars of England.

The Cars of England once again came to Oakbourne on a perfect day on June 4. The sight of all those perfectly kept and polished Aston Martins, Bentleys, and Rolls Royces is one the Queen herself would have enjoyed. In addition to nearly 100 classic Jaguars competing in a nationally sanctioned Concours d'Elegance, there were hundreds of other British classics competing for prizes and the crowd's adoration, including Morgans, Minis, MGs, Triumphs and so many more.

There were cars there that I have never seen before. There was a 1965 Austin Moke, a 1963 English Daimler, a Birkin, a 1976 Lotus 51FF formula racing car, and a bright red Allard. James Bond would have felt at home in the 1962 Aston Martin DB4. Carroll Shelby would have admired the 1963 Cobra, a racing car he developed that year based on the popular English sports car, the AC Bristol. If you're old enough to remember the television



The Morgan roadster, still handmade with a wooden frame, is beloved by collectors that care more about the thrill of driving than modern comforts.



The Jaguar XKE made its debut in 1961, and even after 50 years, this beautiful car is still among the handsomest on the road.



The pre-war Allard roadster was a car ahead of its time with lines and features copied by other makers to this day.

Vehicle Theft Tips

Recently, the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department has noticed an increase in the number of incidents where items are stolen out of parked vehicles. Oftentimes these crimes are crimes of opportunity and as such can be prevented and the criminals can be deterred through simple crime prevention methods. In order to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of theft the police department would like to suggest the following tips:

1. Lock your vehicle when you park it.
2. Don't leave items of value in plain sight inside your vehicle. Preferably remove these items and take them with you when you park your car. If this is not possi-

ble, attempt to place the items in an inconspicuous location such as under the seat, in the trunk, or in the glove box. This includes things that might suggest valuable items being in your vehicle such as a windshield mounted GPS holder even if the GPS unit is not in it.

3. If your vehicle is to be parked overnight try to park in an area with an unobstructed view (i.e. not right next to bushes, in a well lit area, consider using motion lights to help deter anyone from approaching your car under the cover of darkness).

4. Lastly, please report any suspicious activity that you observe by calling 911.



BEHIND THE BADGE

2010 Officer of the Year Michael O'Brien

Officer O'Brien is a 2½ year veteran of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department and is assigned to the Patrol Division. Officer O'Brien attended Malvern Prep and received his BS from Lynchburg College in Virginia. He graduated in 2008 from the Delaware County Police Academy. His hobbies include weight training and playing softball.

The Office of the Year Award was presented to Officer O'Brien by Chief John Dumond at a ceremony held at the Westtown Township Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2011.



REMINDERS FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Shrubs in Right of Way

With all the rainfall in the spring of this year the shrubbery in Westtown is looking great. Flowers are in bloom and the grass seems to need mowing more than once a week. Looking especially healthy are the foundation shrubs and the shrubs and plants that are growing at the front of properties with road frontage. Some of the properties with roadside plantings are experiencing such growth that the shrubs overhang the roadbed creating a hazard for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

The Westtown Township Zoning Ordinance specifies what can be planted in the right-of-way, that is the area of the property close to the curb or paved road in the front of properties. Generally, the smaller roads in the Township have a right of way that extends approximately 25 feet from the centerline of the road and back onto the property. Article 170-1507 (C) Landscaping and site design states:

“There shall be no plantings, ground cover or other objects (such as fences) placed within the road right-of way above 18 inches in height.”

All property owners are encouraged to examine the right-of-way at the front of their property to evaluate the plantings that negatively impact the right-of way. Please make sure to trim back plantings to the maximum 18 inch height limit and to remove plantings that overhang the roadway.

At any future time work that may be required by a public utility or Township road crews could cause damage or the removal of plantings in the right –of-way. The Township and contractors working for the Township are not obligated to replace or restore plantings and other objects removed from the right-of-way during work on the right-of-way.



Street Addresses

All principal buildings in the Township are required to have street address numbers. This is a safety issue. Use of the correct street address, properly displayed, enables emergency responders to quickly and accurately locate your property in an emergency situation.

The designated street number, assigned by the Township address coordinator, must be posted on each building, dwelling unit or commercial or business establishment or its associated mailbox in accordance with the following specifications and regulations:

- A If the principal building is serviced by a mailbox mounted at the end of the access drive, the designated street address number shall be posted on both sides of the box or post.
- B If the street address number is not visible as described in Subsection A above and there is no mailbox located at the access drive, the street address number must be posted on a marker placed at the driveway entrance.
- C If an access drive serves more than one principal building the

street address numbers shall be posted at the end of the drive and auxiliary numbers shall be posted to identify the main entrance to each structure and/or dwelling unit.

- D The street numbers shall be Arabic in design, shall have a minimum height of three inches and shall be mounted in secure fashion in accordance with the appropriate specifications in Subsection A, B, or C above.
- E The numbers shall be so designed as to be readily legible and visible during daylight hours by a person possessing normal vision from the center lines of the facing street, and shall be placed so that trees, shrubs and other obstructions do not block the line of sight of the numbers from the center of the facing street to any appreciable degree.

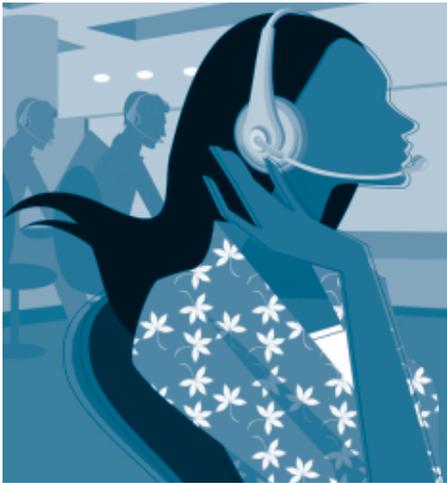
Parking on Residential Properties

The Township Zoning Ordinance restricts parking of commercial vehicles on residential properties - only one small truck is permitted. The Ordinance also bans parking of trailers and RVs in the front yard.

From the Emergency Management Coordinator

The Special Needs Registry

Westtown Township is participating in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Special Needs Registry program. It's an Internet based system which allows individuals who may need some additional notification, attention or assistance during an emergency situation. It is designed to allow you to submit



information for yourself, or as a caregiver for someone else. Once you log on at <https://specialneedspa.org>, you will be asked to create a User name and password to insure the security of your data, then you are presented a short form to fill out, describing what needs you, or the person you are filing for, may require. In an emergency, your information can be viewed by Chester County Emergency Management personnel and the Westtown Emergency Management Coordinator, who will be able to make sure you are notified of the emergency and provided the assistance you need. If you may need some extra help during an emergency situation, from power failure to evacuation, please take a few minutes and register on this system.

Westtown Evacuation/Comfort Center

In a full-scale emergency situation that makes it impossible for us to

stay in our homes or apartments, Emergency Management and the American Red Cross will open Mass Care Shelters, where you will be provided food and shelter until it's safe to return home. When things are not quite so bad, if for instance a short-term evacuation is necessary, or our homes are OK but uncomfortable (very hot, very cold, no power, and things like that), Westtown Township will open an Evacuation/Comfort Center. This center will be a place to go to get a cup of coffee or cold drink, warm up or cool off, charge your cell phone, and get an update on the situation. You will be notified by email and a message will be placed on the Township Web Site and answering machine that a center is being opened and where it will be. The first choice will be the Westtown Township Building, but other sites may be utilized based on the situation. This center will be staffed by members of the Westtown Emergency Management Team.

Don Verdiani

Utility Bill Payments

Please note – utility bill payments must be RECEIVED in the Township Office by the due date. Postmarks will not be accepted

The current economic situation is creating financial strains for Westtown Township just as it is for individuals and other organizations and companies. Under these circumstances, prompt payment of sewer and trash bills is of great importance. The Township will sincerely appreciate your cooperation in seeing that your payments are received in a timely manner.

Many of our residents choose to pay these bills using their banks payment services. Unfortunately, this does not always result in the payments being received by the due date printed on the bill. If you pay your bills using your banks bill payment service, make sure you instruct the bank to send the check at least 5 days before the due date.

All accounts which are not paid in full by the due date are subject to late payment penalties.





READY! SET! ACTION!

By popular demand, the **Summer Movie Nights** will be....

"MARY POPPINS" rated G
to be shown on Friday, July 22

"SECRETARIET" rated PG
to be shown on Friday, August 19

"DESPICABLE ME" rated PG
to be shown on Friday, September 9



Join us at Oakbourne Park, behind the Mansion, by 7:45 p.m. to get a good seat! Movies start at 8 p.m. Bring Your Own Blanket (and flashlight). Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

Free to attend!

Brought to you by the Parks & Recreation Commission.



The first **Westtown Township Yard Sale**, held on Saturday, April 30, was a HUGE success! Almost 60 spots were filled and each displayed a variety of treasures – from house wares to tool, from books & music to pet items & furniture, and obviously a lot of gently-used children items. Hundreds of people came to look for collectables and nostalgic favorites, and many left very pleased with new purchases. Since this was such a popular event, Parks & Rec will make it an annual spring event. *Start sorting now!* Many thanks to those who participated. We hope to see you again next year.

Another GREAT event brought to you by the Westtown Township Parks & Recreation Commission!

Join us on Facebook: Westtown Parks & Recreation

PLANNING CALENDAR

Yard Waste/Leaf Collections – Saturday, July 16th and Saturday, August 20th a dumpster will be located behind the Police Station. Yard waste can be dropped off between the hours of 9:00Am – 1:00Pm. The following are the dates for fall curb side pickup: All Saturdays – September 24th, October 22nd, November 5th and 19th, December 10th.

The Township Office will be closed on the following dates

July 4th, Independence Day
September 5th, Labor Day

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

**Tuesday*

July

4th of July Trash Collection – Saturday, July 2nd.

Board of Supervisors – 5th* & 18th

Planning Commission – 6th & 20th

Zoning Hearing Board, Township Bldg. – Thursday, July 7th, 7:30pm Rustin Lighting

Parks & Recreation – 12th

Yard Waste Collection – Dumpster – Saturday, July 16th

Friends of Oakbourne – 21st

Movie Night – Oakbourne Park – Friday, July 22nd - 7:30Pm - *Mary Poppins*

Zoning Hearing Board Township Bldg – Tuesday, July 26th 7:30pm , Chester County Outdoor, LLC

August

Board of Supervisors – 1st & 15th

Planning Commission – 3rd & 17th

Parks & Recreation – 9th

Movie Night – Oakbourne Park – Friday, Aug. 19th - 7:30pm - *Secretariat*

Yard Waste Collection – Dumpster – Saturday, August 20th

September

Board of Supervisors – 6th* & 19th

Planning Commission – 7th & 21st

Parks & Recreation – 13th

Movie Night – Oakbourne Park – Friday, Sept. 9th - *Despicable Me*

Yard Waste Collection – Curb side – Saturday, 24th

October

Board of Supervisors – 3rd & 17th

Planning Commission – 5th & 19th

Parks & Recreation – 11th

Friends of Oakbourne – 20th

Westtown Dog Show – Oakbourne Park – Saturday, 8th. 10am-12noon

Yard Waste Collection – Curb Side – Saturday, 22nd

Because the first Summer Movie Night had to be changed to Friday, July 22, Parks & Recreation will let Santa rest this July and there will NOT be a Christmas in July event on July 23rd as previously announced. We're sorry for the disappointment. There will be snow and reindeer games next year.



REFUSE & RECYCLING

RECYCLING AND TRASH INFORMATION

YARD WASTE/LEAF COLLECTIONS

The following are the collection dates for the remainder of the year: All Saturdays. July 16 and August 20th – Dumpster at behind Police Office 9:00Am – 1:00Pm; Curb side September 24th, October 22nd, November 5th, November 19th, and December 10th. Make sure all yard waste is curbside by 7:00Am – place in biodegradable bags, or a container that may be dumped – **NO PLASTIC Bags. Limbs must be cut to 3 feet in length and tied.**

Holiday Pickup. 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.

Hazardous Waste Collections:

Saturday, September 10th, 9am—3pm — New Garden Township Maintenance Building – 8934 Gap Newport Road – Landenberg, PA – **NO Computers Accepted.**

Saturday, October 8th, 9am—3pm — Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA. **Computers Accepted.**

LEAVE YOUR GRASS CLIPPINGS AS YOU MOW. Clippings provide nutrition of your lawn. They are comprised of water, organic matter, nitrogen, and a small amount of phosphorus – all things your grass needs. Because clipping supply up to 50% of a lawn’s nitrogen needs over the season, you will not need as much fertilizer. Clippings from regular mowing will NOT cause thatch build up and will not hurt the grass.

PLEASE DO NOT DUMP YARD WASTE CLIPPINS, BRANCHES OR LEAVES IN THE STREET WHERE IT CAN WASH INTO STORM DRAINS, OR IN PARKS, ALONG STREAMS, OR PILED AT THE BASE OF TREES.

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. <i>NO plate glass, ceramics, drinking glasses, etc.</i>
Plastic: 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.
Aluminum Beverage Cans: Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. No bottle or jar lids, no pie plates or aluminum foil. <i>No other aluminum items.</i>
Bi-Metal Cans: 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>
Newspaper, Magazines, Phone Books, Junk Mail, small cardboard boxes (cereal, crackers, etc) & Office Paper: Combine in paper bag or bundle and tie.
Cardboard Boxes: Must be cut in <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.



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- Commercial
- Industrial
- Construction
- Residential
- Recycling
- 1-40 yard containers
- Storage containers
- Special cleanups
- Junk removal
- Residential toter carts



*15 cubic yards
14ft long / 8ft wide / 5ft high*



*30 cubic yards
22ft long / 8ft wide / 6ft high*