Manager’s Message

Phase 1 of the Westtown Township Sewage Management Program (SMP) concluded with a compliance rate of 96%. This is an excellent response rate, and more inspections reports are filtering in daily. Many thanks to residents who had their systems inspected promptly and submitted the required paperwork to the Township. The preliminary data from Phase 1 has revealed that on-lot systems in the Township are generally in good repair. The systems have been routinely maintained and damaged or missing components are being addressed.

The purpose of Westtown’s SMP is to identify any deficiencies in on-lot sewage disposal systems and address those deficiencies to protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of our community. The SMP will also benefit residents by increasing the longevity of their septic system components. Although the SMP will require any system deficiencies to be corrected; Westtown cannot and will not require any property owner to install a new septic system as a consequence of completing the initial SMP on-lot sewage system inspection.

Phase II of the SMP is officially underway and inspections are due June 7, 2015. To determine if you are in Phase 2 and for general SMP information, maps, forms, and documents, please visit Westtown’s website at www.westtownpa.org. Residents are urged to schedule their inspections early to avoid the winter weather that could make a complete inspection impossible. Pumping of your septic tank at time of inspection is strongly recommended. A few things to consider when submitting your Initial On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Inspection Report:

• Submit the report before your phase deadline.
• If you have your system pumped at the time of the inspection, include a copy of your pumping receipt with the inspection report.
• Be sure the inspection report is completely filled out before it is submitted, including a telephone number where you can be reached.

Thank you to all Westtown residents who have made this program successful and for doing your part in protecting the environmental health of our community.

Regards,

Robert R. Pingar, P.E.
Township Manager & Director of Engineering
Enjoy Fresh Picked Produce Grown And Sold At Pete’s Farm

2013 Chester County Farmer Of The Year

Pete’s Produce Farm At Westtown School
On 926, 3.5 miles East of 202 | 610-399-3711

Celebrating 25 Years of Growing Corn
Westtown Township, County of Chester
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Westtown Township Board of Supervisors
Carol De Wolf
Mike Di Domenico
Tom Haws
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 & Phone Numbers

Government Services Center: 601 Westtown Road
Chester County Court House: 313 W. Market St, 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: 610-925-4920
West Chester Area School District:
829 Paoli Pike, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380
Main Number: 484-266-1000
School Tax: 484-266-1035
State Senate – 9th District:
Dominic F. Pileggi: Local: 610-358-5783 / State: 717-787-4712
email: dpileggi@pasen.gov
State House - 168th District:
Tom Killion: Local: 610-325-1541 / State: 717-772-0855
Email: tkillion@pahousegop.com
U. S. Senator:
www.toomey.senate.gov
www.casey.senate.gov
Congressional District – 6th District:
James Gerlach: Local: 610-594-1415 / Federal: 202-225-4315
www.gerlach.house.gov

Bulletin Board:

Phase II On-Lot System Inspections Due.
Residents in Phase II of the On-Lot Sewage Management Program are required to have their initial system inspection paperwork submitted to the Township by June 7, 2015. Please refer to the On-Lot Sewage Management Program Guide for more information.

Commission Openings.
The Township is seeking volunteers to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission. If you would like to become involved, please send your resume and letter of interest to the Township Manager, Rob Pingar, P.E. (rpingar@westtown.org).

On-Lot Sewage Management Program Fee.
Residents with on-lot sewer systems will be charged the fourth quarterly installment of their $100 annual sewer fee on their October trash bill. This fee covers implementation of the OLM plan including administrative costs, infrastructure, and enforcement.

Pay Sewer and Trash Bills Online.
Westtown residents can use Visa, MasterCard, and Discover to pay their utility bills online. There is no fee for residents who use this service. Simply go to our website and click on Pay Bills Online.

Email Alerts.
To be added to our electronic notification of Township meetings, events, and other important news, please email mailist@westtown.org. Please put “Mailing List” in the subject line.

Website.
Consult the News and Information page of the Township website for notices of meeting cancellations, special events, press releases from the Westtown East Goshen Police, and other alerts.

Save paper!
If you would like to receive the Westtown Gazette electronically, send an email to info@westtown.org and request to be put on the electronic delivery list.

For Police, Fire, & Medical EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911
For NON-EMERGENCIES, dial 610-692-5100
H: Darlington Corners: Westtown's ‘Main Street’

By Gail O. Guterl, Vice Chair, Westtown Township Historical Commission

I am a 21st century time traveler. My crudely crafted time machine has wheels for road travel and skis for water landings. I'm inviting you to join me on a trip through the ages. We'll make only one stop on limited fuel — the confluence of Rt. 926 (Street Road) and Rt. 202 (Wilmington Pike) in Westtown Township, what the U.S. Geological Survey calls Darlington Corners. In its heyday, this intersection was the equivalent of a main street for Westtown.

I did my homework in preparation for this trip, delving into old records, scrutinizing maps, and reading A History of Westtown Township, in anticipation of what to expect. I have set my coordinates for the township's latitude 39.92 and longitude 75.577, elevation 374 feet. Our first stop, September, 350 years ago, and many Septembers after that. So hold tight. Here we go!

1664
A dizzying, warp-speed ride later, I land facing north, scar ing a deer in the process. Deer! Feels like I never left the 21st century. I am parked on a rudimentary, but well-worn path on the crest of a small hill that as far as I can see runs from north to south. It is so quiet here, just the rustling of leaves in the trees and tall grasses and the sound of corn stalks rubbing against each other. Corn stalks?

Oh yes, I remember reading that besides being hunter gatherers, the region's Lenni Lenape Indians adopted large-scale agriculture to augment their food supplies, planting the “three sisters” — corn, beans and squash. I do not see anyone around, but I do see a plot of corn and squash planted to the west of the rough path. Wish I had time to wait for the gardeners, but must move forward 23 years.

1687
Things have changed a great deal here — on paper. In 1681, William Penn received 25 million acres, about 40,000 miles of land in what is now Pennsylvania, from Charles II in payment for a debt to Penn's father. In 1684, Penn was approached by Welsh Quakers who asked for a tract of land where they could speak their own language and practice their religion. Part of what is now Westtown Township was incorporated into the Welsh Tract or Barony. It appears on a 1687 map marked “Weft.Town,” the olde English spelling, and the area that will become Darlington Corners is owned by Richard Collet and Richard Whitpain. The area is still open fields and woods. On to another era!

1777
September 11. Now the rudimentary north/south trail is much more defined, showing ruts from horse-drawn wagons and foot traffic. A noise to the west startles me. In the distance, very tall soldiers in blue and red jackets with high conical hats are marching south at a clipped pace, weapons on their shoulders, appearing dusty and tired, but very vigilant. As they progress further south, I hear shots and muffled booms and see soldiers fall to the ground. I find myself in the midst of a battle and I am going to skedaddle. I know from my history, how this will turn out.

1820
Ah, that's better; no battles here in 1820 except those precipitated by the nascent Industrial Revolution. On the east side of what is now a bona fide road, I see a cloth factory, which employs 11 men, five women and sadly, five boys and girls. No child labor laws! From earlier research conducted before I entered my time machine, I know the building was called Westtown Factory, when in 1810 it was operated by Benedict Darlington and Jess Otley, who years later made and sold Beatty's “celebrated washing machines,” according to their advertising. The cloth factory replaced a manufacturing plant and wooden clock works businesses that were in the same location. I know soon there will be a store near the factory, selling hats, shoes, groceries, liquor and DuPont's powder by keg! I wonder where they'll store the gunpowder on the shelves — possibly between the groceries and the liquor? (In 2014, Westtown Historical Commission continues to research this and many other historic aspects of the township.)

1830-31
As Wilmington Pike grows, I realize my time machine actually is not on the Wilmington road. I used 2014 coordinates, and realize the original road is slightly west of me. I think I'll stay here for now and observe. A log cabin tavern built in 1803 on the northwest corner of the intersection — named the Sign of Count Powlaskey in 1805 and then the Sign of The King of Prussia in 1805 (What is this fascination with the King of Prussia?) was replaced this year by a serpentine stone house owned by Thomas Darlington, who insisted the intersection be named Darlington's Corner. The structure will be run as a drover's inn for many years – at times a very lively place, if you catch my drift — under many names, including the Westtown Inn and Darlington's Corner Hotel.
One irony; for years the Thornbury Post Office will be in Westtown at this intersection, and the Westtown PO will be in Thornbury, east on Street Road (Rt. 926). By 1843, the PO will be in Darlington’s Inn, the drover’s hotel and tavern.

1854
Big changes on Wilmington Pike; it is now a plank road. Yes, a road made of long wooden boards to make it easier to transport goods via wagon across the region. Plank roads won’t be around long. Within a few short years, the pike will be replaced with a surface of crushed stone. An 1873 map of the intersection will show Brinton’s Store, Westtown Inn, and surrounding properties, both residential and commercial, owned by McClure (what is now Crebilly Farm), Woodward, Taylor, Darlington, Cobourn, Cannon and “the Misses Few,” African American landowners in the area, which is apparently a rarity. (One sister, Elizabeth Few was the widow of the Jacob Few, so where did “Miss” come from?)

1890-1900
A whole new concept in transportation has come to Wilmington Pike. It’s called a toll road. Even if I stood on the top of my time machine and craned my neck northward, I will not be able to see the tollgate building at West Chester Normal School, now West Chester University. Apparently the tollgate will be moved further south, close to where Parkway Center will one day be built. Many will not be able to afford to pay the toll, and will travel circuitous roads to avoid them. These routes will become known as “shun” pikes. Legislation will pass in 1893 to make the highway free. However, despite the eventual macadamizing of the road and it becoming a major route from New England to the South, it is still quiet enough for the county commissioners and surveyors to walk down to Darlington Corners to inspect it before declaring it a public road.

A fixture for more than 50 years on the southeast corner of this intersection is Darwin R. Highfield’s wheelwright and blacksmith shop, which also houses the Thornbury PO — an unusual combination, the records claim.

1909
Speeding is no recent invention on the now macadamized Wilmington Pike and Street Road. Imagine the Pike in 1909 with cars motoring along at the unheard of speed of 20 mph. (I am watching them whiz by from the protection of my time machine.) The problem is so pervasive in Delaware that three men have been stationed at the tollgate on the Kennett Turnpike in Greenville, DE, to “catch the speed maniacs,” according to a June 24, 1909 article in the Wilmington News.

1937
We must keep moving because my fuel is running short. I see G. Maurice (pronounced Morris) Bartram has opened a fruit stand at the southwest corner of Darlington Corners. It will be moved twice, in 1943 to the southeast corner of the intersection, when his son J. Hibberd Bartram will inherit the business and yet again in 1952 to the northeast corner, where it will remain, along with a second-hand book store, until the 1980s when an Acme supermarket will be built on the site.

1939
Oh my, I am going to have to push my time machine to the Old Wilmington Pike because big changes are happening to the road. First, it is being straightened, therefore moving right to the spot where my time machine is parked. Then it will be concreted and widened from two to four lanes along certain parts of the highway. Where I stand will remain two lanes for a few more years. Several buildings will be demolished to make way for the new, straighter highway. An old stone barn on the northeast corner — Highfield’s old wheelwright shop — is among those that will be torn down once this portion of the pike is widened.

1957
Oh gosh, I have to move my machine again, because Rt. 202 is being widened from 22 feet to 48 feet with a four-foot concrete divider. More homes will be razed to accommodate the widening. By the way, I have seen state police cars patrolling the area, either from the Paoli or Coatesville substations.

My fuel is dangerously low; I’m going to end my visit and head back to 2014. Hopefully you will join me another time for another trip through Westtown’s history in my time machine.
As I mentioned in the previous Gazette, the harsh winter of 2013-2014 was very hard on many of the trees at Oakbourne Park. One of the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) dedicated trees that was planted several years ago did not make it through the winter. When a FoO dedicated tree dies prematurely, it will be replaced at no charge to the person or organization that donated the original tree. Therefore, the winter killed tree (a Japanese Stewartia) which was donated in April 2009 by Helen Greer in memory of Suzanne Roberts was recently replaced with an American yellowwood tree near the site where an old magnificent yellowwood was previously located. The yellowwood is a medium-sized native American tree that has late spring wisteria-like flowers, gray bark and showy fall foliage.

As you enter the paved Oakbourne parking lot from the entrance drive, you will notice a new beautifully constructed kiosk located adjacent to the parking lot as you face the water tower. This kiosk was built for FoO by John Stamboolian (husband of FoO board member Kathy) with some assistance by his son Jay who happened to be visiting his parents from Germany. One side of the kiosk will be used to display a map of Oakbourne Park showing the location of all dedicated trees planted by the Friends of Oakbourne; tree donors and the persons to whom the trees were dedicated will also be displayed. The other side of the kiosk will be used by the township to display timely and pertinent township announcements. Many thanks to John Stamboolian for constructing the kiosk and to Westtown Roadmaster Mark Gross and his staff (Dave Brown, Connor Brown and Alex Creager) for transporting the kiosk from John’s house to the park and setting it up in concrete footers.

Contact Tom Bare (tmbare@hotmail.com or 610-399-1572) if you are interested in donating a tree to be planted in Oakbourne Park to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion.
Westtown East Goshen Police News

A promotional ceremony was held at the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department on June 25, 2014, to honor the two officers recently promoted by the Department. Sergeant Peter Keegan began his career with the Department in 2002 and Officer Timothy Reilly has been a member of the Department since 2012. We are very proud of these two officers and hope that you will congratulate them on their accomplishment!

Pictured (from left to right): Sergeant Peter Keegan, Magisterial District Justice William Kraut (who administered the Oath of Office to the newly promoted officers), and Officer Timothy Reilly.

Public Works Department

The 2014 Road Program is complete. Mother Nature cooperated this summer with dry weather and relatively mild temperatures, allowing the project to progress on schedule and slightly under budget. Two miles of Township roads were resurfaced. In addition, a partially collapsed stormwater pipe was replaced on Windy Knoll Road. The Township would like to thank those residents affected for their cooperation during the project.

Clearview Road Paving.

Milling on Little Shiloh.
Burning in Westtown Township

The days are getting cooler and the leaves have started to fall. As they accumulate, many residents resort to burning as a method of disposing of their leaves. In addition to this being a health hazard, burning leaves is prohibited anywhere in the Township and is subject to fine up to $1000. Leaves may either be composted or placed curbside. The yard waste collection days are posted on the Township website www.westtownpa.org and on page 10 of the Gazette.

According to Chapter 63 of the Westtown Code, burning is allowed under the following conditions:

- Burning is permitted between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
- Burning must be confined in an enclosed container at least 10 feet from a building.
- Open burning must be at least 15 feet from a building and the area must be cleared of any combustible materials at least 15 feet around.
- The fire must be attended at all times with a means to extinguish the fire should it spread.
- Recreational fires (used to cook food) and Ceremonial fires (for community, educational, service, or scouting organizations) are allowed.

Any fire may be extinguished by the local fire company, if in the opinion of the Westtown Township Fire Marshal or a Westtown East Goshen Police officer, the fire constitutes a danger to persons or property. As in any community, our residents include elderly, disabled veterans, those with asthma, and young children, who are particularly sensitive to smoke inhalation. When burning, please be considerate of your neighbors.

Parks & Recreation News

Pilates And Yoga Classes

Parks & Recreation is offering Pilates and Yoga classes at Oakbourne Mansion. Each 8 week session is only $70. All instructors are fully certified. Registration form is available at the Township office and on our website www.westtownpa.org. Class size is limited to 10 students per class, so register quickly. The winter session starts Monday, November 17 and runs through the week of January 26, 2015. No classes will be held the weeks of November 24, December 22, and December 29. Registration begins October 1.

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Email questions to westtownhealthandfitness@gmail.com.
Winter Festival at Oakbourne Mansion

Residents are cordially invited to the 5th annual Winter Festival
Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road
Sunday, December 7, 2014 | 2:00 to 4:00 PM
*Music, crafts, games, and refreshments

Keep Yard Waste Away from Streams

Dumping of yard clippings, leaves, and other debris into stream valleys and floodplains is a serious problem and is often illegal under state and local floodplain and water quality ordinances.

- Yard waste like leaves, grass, and brush piled along stream edges suffocates and kills the trees and shrubs that are critical for avoiding stream bank erosion.

- Yard waste piled along streams can easily be washed into streams during large rain events. Once in the stream, this burst of organic material contributes a harmful excess of nutrients, which in turn robs the stream of oxygen needed by fish and aquatic insects. Oxygen depletion can be observed for a long distance downstream of these localized deposits of yard waste and ultimately compound in Delaware Bay.

- Leaves and other yard waste raked into streets often wash into storm drains, causing flooding, impeding stream flow, and creating areas of stagnant water that may create mosquito problems.

A few tips for handling yard waste:

- Compost leaves or yard waste whenever possible. Find out more about composting and yard disposal from the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (www.chestercountyswa.org) or Delaware County Solid Waste Authority (www.co.delaware.pa.us/SWA).

- If you dispose of leaves, do so in biodegradable paper bags or a container that can be dumped, and place curb side on the specified yard waste collection days.

- DO NOT burn leaves. Burning results in air pollution and is prohibited in Westtown Township.

- DO NOT remove leaves and other woody debris from the ground in natural areas of your property, which may include hedgerows and forested areas. Leaves and downed woody material provide a great source of food and nutrients for microorganisms that are critical to maintaining healthy soils and plants.

Photo Source: CRC; Yard waste blocking a culvert.
Township Meetings & Events

October, 2014
6, 22 – Board of Supervisors
9, 23 – Planning Commission
9 – Friends of Oakbourne
11 – Yard Waste Pickup
14 – Parks & Recreation
16 – Historical Commission

November, 2014
3, 17 – Board of Supervisors
5, 19 – Planning Commission
8 – Yard Waste Pickup
11 – Parks & Recreation
20 – Historical Commission
22 – Yard Waste Pickup

December, 2015
1, 15 – Board of Supervisors
3, 17 – Planning Commission
9 – Parks & Recreation
13 – Yard Waste Pickup
18 – Historical Commission

All Board of Supervisors (7:30 pm), Historical Commission (6 pm), and Planning Commission Meetings (7:30 pm) are held at the Township Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown.

Parks & Recreation Meetings and events are held at Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown at 7:30 pm.

Township offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the day after, as well as Christmas Day and the day after.

Announcements

Phase II SMP Inspections
Initial On-Lot Septic Inspections for properties in Phase II of the SMP program are due June 7, 2015.

Commission Vacancies
Westtown Township is seeking volunteers to serve on the Parks & Recreation Commission, P&R meets at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Oakbourne Mansion. If you would like to become involved, please send your resume and letter of interest to:

Rob Pingar, Township Manager
Westtown Township
P.O. Box 79
Westtown, PA 19395
Or email rpingar@westtown.org.

Scam Alerts!
The Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department has seen an increase in phone scams including Tax, Tech Support, and “Granny” scams. To learn more about these types of scams visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts. If you suspect that you have been a victim of one of these scams, you should contact your local police department and file a police report.

Master P’s World Class Tae Kwon Do opens in Westtown Marketplace

On September 27, Westtown Supervisor, Carol De Wolf, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony.
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.

Paper:
Newspaper, Magazines, Phone Books, Junk Mail, small cardboard boxes (cereal, crackers, etc) & Office Paper: must be in a paper bag or bundled and tied. DO NOT COM-INGLE LOOSELY with other recyclables, or your recycling will not be collected.

Yard Waste/Leaves:
Cannot be placed in the regular trash and only collected on scheduled days. Must be in paper bags or in a container that can be dumped. Branches cannot be more than 3 inches in diameter or 3 feet in length and must be bundled and tied. No rocks or stumps. Yard Waste collection dates are posted on the Township website www.westtownpa.org, in the Township Gazette, and on your utility bills.

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.

2014 Trash & Recycling Information

Holiday Pickup Schedule: Trash will not be collected on New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For Monday pickups, trash and recycling will be collected the Saturday before the holiday; Thursday pickups will be collected the Saturday after the holiday.

Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection: Pennsylvania law prohibits the disposal of electronic waste in the regular trash.

Visit www.chestercountyswa.org for e-waste collection events scheduled throughout the county.

Large Item Collection: Bulk items will be picked up on the last collection date of the month. You are allowed to put out three large items, such as appliances without Freon and furniture. Construction debris (shingles, drywall, lumber, etc.) will not be collected. If you are not sure about the disposal of a bulk item please contact the Township.
CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!

OAKBOURNE MANSION
WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOLIDAY EVENT

Oakbourneevents@gmail.com
610-692-1930