



WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter To The Citizens Of Westtown Township - Fall Issue #15



Manager's Message:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and took vacation time to the shore, mountains or somewhere more exotic. The hot weather was a nice respite from the brutal winter past. I would just like to share some thoughts on miscellaneous activities in Westtown Township.

The 2015 Road Program was completed in mid-September. The paving contractor did an excellent job. I trust the many residents who now have a newly paved road are more than satisfied. The township expects to have a larger road program in 2016 to remain on schedule with our long-term plan for road improvements.

The Tyson Park Watershed Restoration and Protection Program project was completed this summer. This project transformed what was a mowed lawn into an interpretive demonstration garden of naturalized wetlands, riparian buffer, bioswales, and forebays. A second project phase of trails and parking lot improvements is being planned.

The Parks and Recreation Commission organized another successful summer of Movie Nights at Oakbourne Park. Thanks to all who enjoyed these free family events.

Westtown is moving forward with updating our 2001 Growth Management Plan. This is a two-year project that will involve many stakeholders. Participation by the general public is encouraged. There will be more details in a future Westtown Gazette.

Finally, Sunoco Logistics is moving forward with the construction of two additional pipelines in the Rt. 352 right-of-way through Westtown. Many residents have been contacted by Sunoco to acquire pipeline easements on their properties. The Board of Supervisors and Westtown's staff are coordinating with Sunoco to arrange community meetings to enhance the public's understanding of the project and its short and long term impacts.

As always, please stop in at the township building for a visit; I welcome the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions about Westtown Township.

Regards,

Rob Pingar
Township Manager

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Westtown Township, County of Chester

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Board of Supervisors: Mike Di Domenico, Carol DeWolf, 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

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 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

Voter Services: 610-344-6410

Chester County Conservation District: 610-696-5126

West Chester Area School District:

829 Paoli Pike, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

Main Number: 484-266-1000 | School Tax: 484-266-1035

State Senate - 9th District:

Dominic F. Pileggi: Local: 610-358-5783 / State: 717-787-4712

Email: dpileggi@pasen.gov

State House - 156th District:

Dan Truitt: Local: 610-696-4990 / State: 717-260-6164

Email: dtruitt@pahousegop.com

U. S. Senator:

Pat Toomey: Local: 215-241-1090 / Federal: 202-224-4254

www.toomey.senate.gov

Robert Casey: Local: 215-405-9660 / Federal: 202-224-6324

www.casey.senate.gov

Congress - 6th District:

Ryan Costello: Local: 610-696-2982 / Federal: 202-225-4315

www.costello.house.gov

BULLETIN BOARD

Phase III On-Lot System Inspections Due. Residents in Phase III of the On-Lot Sewage Management Program are required to have their initial system inspection paperwork submitted to the Township by March 7, 2016. Please refer to the On-Lot Sewage Management Program Guide for more information.

Holiday Festival at Oakbourne Mansion. The Parks & Recreation Commission will be hosting their annual Holiday Festival at Oakbourne Mansion from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6. Come enjoy holiday music, crafts, games and refreshments.

Ready Chesco Alerts. To sign up for Chester County's electronic notification system for emergency information go to <http://www.readychesco.org>.

Pay Sewer and Trash Bills Online. Westtown residents can use Visa, Master Card, and Discover to pay their utility bills online at www.westtownpa.org. There is no fee for residents who use this service.

Email Alerts. To be added to our electronic notification of Township meetings, special events such as Movie Nights, trash & recycling reminders, and other important news, please email maillist@westtown.org. Please put "Listserv" in the subject line.

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.**

Tyson Park Wetlands Project

If Oakbourne Road is part of your daily commute, you probably have noticed the transformation that has taken place at Tyson Park over the past year. But for those of you in the Westtown community who may not regularly travel that route, you are encouraged to check out this lovely little park. Located at the intersection of Tyson Drive and Oakbourne Road, the park features a picnic pavilion, a playground, and a newly constructed bio-swale. A bio what?? A bio-swale is a natural way of reducing sediments and pollutants from urban runoff. Let's back up a year and follow our swell swale from design to construction.

In late 2013, Westtown Township was awarded a Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) grant of \$96,703. The goal of the WRPP is to restore and maintain streams impaired by polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from the Department of Environmental Protection's list of Impaired Waters. That list identified the entire main stem of Goose Creek as having Phosphorus and organic enrichment impairments. Responsibility for reducing pollutants in the Goose Creek Watershed falls in part to Westtown Township under its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

The Township used the WRPP grant to design and construct stormwater management improvements in Tyson Park. First, invasive species were removed and then meandering bio-swales, forebays, and rain gardens were installed. A dense cover of grasses, wildflowers, and other plants now slow the rate of storm water, trap particulate pollutants, prevent soil erosion, and promote infiltration into the ground water table. The bio-swales were arranged into separate eco-zones to provide a rich diversity of plant material that will grow in Tyson Park's wet conditions. The vegetation within the bio-swale also provides food and habitat for diverse wildlife, and offer excellent opportunities for passive recreation such as bird watching and photography. A permanent interpretive sign was erected to educate visitors about stormwater management and provide landscaping ideas. Plan a fall picnic and check out the changes at Tyson Park!



Bioswale and forebay construction, seeding and plantings May, 2015.



Tyson Park Bioswale - August, 2015.



Tyson Park Signage.

Remembering His WWII Combat

Westtown's Joe Valentino recalls his war experience through his collection of mementos

by Gail Guterl, Vice Chair, Historical Commission



First he was a “pollywog;” then he became a “shellback.” Before he was any of these things, he was a “motor mach” (a motor machinist), a seaman and most importantly, a collector of memories.

Westtown resident Joseph D. Valentino knows the value of remembering and how remembrance preserves history.

Atypical of World War II veterans, the 94 year old is happy to share colorful memories of his life in the U.S. Navy from 1942 through 1945. And despite it being 73 years since he served aboard the USS Oberon, an attack cargo ship, Valentino relates his stories peppered with the lingo of Navy life as if it was only yesterday.

Many of his memories grace the walls of his home, which is full of Navy memorabilia, each with a special story. His prized possession, a yellow, purple and red Japanese silk kimono he bought in Tokyo, hangs on one wall. Photos of the brand new USS Oberon when he boarded her in 1942 and photos of its battered condition at the end of the war hang on another. A certificate verifying he crossed the equator twice has some very colorful back stories attached to it. One photo shows the Oberon unloading a 20-foot truck onto a Higgins boat, sometimes referred to as an LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel). Also framed are the many colorful commendations and medals he earned in combat with exotic names like the Euro-African-Mid Eastern Campaign, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign, and a discharge pin with the odd nickname, the “Ruptured Duck.”

In July 1942, with no expectations of what combat would be like, Valentino, then age 20 left a good job at Downingtown Paper Co and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His father, who had served in the Army in World War I, was disappointed. He had hoped Joe would follow in his footsteps, “but I figured if I was in the Navy on a ship, I would always have a clean bunk and a hot meal.”

After basic training in Providence, RI, where occupational testing showed an affinity for mechanical tasks, Joe was sent to “diesel school” in Richmond, VA. From there he trained on landing craft in Newport News, VA.

After training, Petty Officer Joseph D. Valentino, now a machinist’s mate, was introduced to what would be his home away from home for the next three years, USS Oberon, named after one of the moons of Uranus. This 7,500 ton, 460-foot ship could travel at 16.5 knots and bristled with cranes and hoists that allowed the ship to load and transport trucks, tanks and personnel. The Oberon carried 5-inch cannon and 20 millimeter and 40 millimeter guns, and used them many times.

On the Oberon, Valentino, who had never left the U.S. before his enlistment, saw action in six invasions (Morocco, Sicily, Italy, southern France, Okinawa and Leyte, the Philippines) during which “someone was always shooting at you,” he says.

Despite fearing for his life during operations, Valentino, an optimist, insists, “I can’t say anything was hard about deployment. I was fortunate to not be wounded, although I was shot at a lot of times.” (One of his mementos is a piece of shrapnel that just missed him.) “You make lots of friends and have great experiences. I was in Casablanca long before Humphrey Bogart,” he jokes.

One memory that makes Valentino laugh are the many rituals observed upon traversing the equator. “Before you cross the equator you are a pollywog,” he explains. “After, you become a shellback. As the ship crosses, new initiates might get dunked in a tank, or officers might be required to remove their pants. Or in one case, an officer kissed the bum of an enlisted man. It was all in fun.”

One of Valentino’s most vivid memories is of August, 1945. “We were resupplying in Manila in preparation for landing troops in Honshu, Japan, when we heard the news on the mess hall radio,” Valentino remembers. “We didn’t know the significance of this, but we felt it was important. When we

heard a second bomb had been dropped on Nagasaki, we realized something was up. I was always sorry FDR never got to see the end of the war, but thankful Truman took the action he did to end it."

With restrictions on what they could do or write - sailors were not allowed to have cameras onboard ship; in fact "our cameras were confiscated and locked in a room until we were discharged." Valentino believes this explains why "everyone collected stuff." Pins and insignia from Japanese soldiers, photos, menus, newspaper clippings, clothing, various sailor's hats - all were saved. He treasures his copy of "War Diary of USS Oberon," a pictorial memento given to every sailor who served on the ship upon discharge.

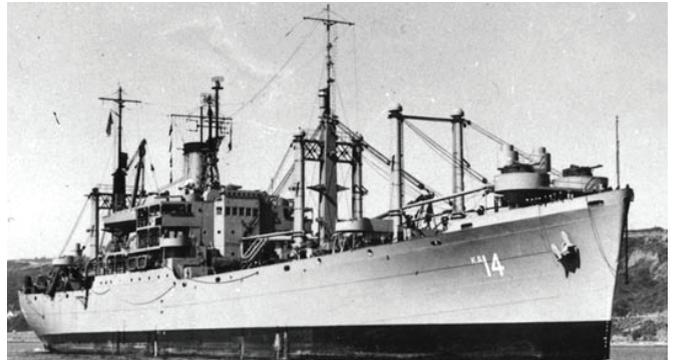
Valentino was demobilized in December, 1945. He went back to work at Downingtown Paper Co. and received a promotion. He met his wife Rose a few years after the war at her twin sister's engagement party, and they married in 1948. That same year, they took a tour of Italy, England, and Amsterdam, and returned to enjoy 66 years of marriage in Westtown until Rose's death in March. But he did not forget his shipmates and his experience on the Oberon. "For a long time after the war we had reunions," Valentino said. "I still correspond with a couple of fellas I served with."

Sadly, the Oberon no longer exists. It saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars and was decommissioned and sold for scrap in 1970. However, it is still very much alive on the walls of Joe Valentino's Westtown home.

MEMENTOS & MEMORIES:



Joe Valentino, newly initiated into the Navy.



The USS Oberon looked spiffy & new when first launched from Kearny, NJ on March 18, 1942. The ship earned 6 battle stars in World War II.



Valentino bought this yellow, purple and red silk-lined kimono from a Japanese woman on the street in Okinawa.



The USS Oberon saw a lot of combat and wear and tear by the end of the war.

Friends of Oakbourne News

by Tom Bare - President, Friends of Oakbourne

After a beautiful (and wet) late spring and early summer which was ideal for our newly planted dedicated trees and shrubs described in the last Gazette, the summer turned hot and dry. This hot, dry weather stressed these new plantings and necessitated a weekly watering schedule to keep them healthy.

The six oakleaf hydrangeas that were planted in the entry gardens at the Oakbourne water tower are doing very well and have grown to heights of 4 - 5 feet and are on their way to 10 - 12 feet as they mature in the coming years. While these shrubs will not flower this year, they should begin to bloom and flower next spring/summer to provide a spectacular display of large white flowers. Conscientious spraying of these shrubs with a deer repellent has so far (fingers crossed!) kept Oakbourne's deer herd from munching on the leaves of these plants.

A Carolina Silverbell tree was planted in the bark woodlet area (southeast of the all-purpose field next to the walking path) in late spring and was dedicated to Kodi, beloved dog and loyal companion of Lisa DeNicola. Lisa has many fond memories of walks with Kodi at Oakbourne, which was one of his favorite places to be. The Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*) is a medium sized (30 - 40 feet at maturity) native tree with an interesting smooth steel gray bark with white striping. In April and May, the tree blooms in clusters of pendulous white bell shaped flowers which produce green 4-winged oblong fruits as summer progressed.



Carolina Silverbell dedicated to Kodi
*(GPS coordinates- Latitude: 39.936062;
Longitude: -75.572084).



Note the abundance of the silverbell's 4-winged fruits.

A new park bench, dedicated by friends and families of Christy Bare and Dan McMains, commemorating the marriage of Christy and Dan was installed at a shaded site with a view of the water tower and mansion where their marriage ceremony and reception were held.

Oakbourne has many magnificent trees in the arboretum and other areas of the park. Some of the trees are huge and estimated to be close to 150 - 200 years old. The Friends of Oakbourne's tree planting and dedication program is aimed at not only adding trees in new strategic areas of the park, but also replacing trees that are nearing the end of their lives or are damaged by the weather. For example, the 19 flowering cherry trees located in the area between South Concord Road and the park entry road were planted in 2006. We have also planted some replacement copper beech trees near the area of the huge old copper beeches (located along the park entry road) that are dying. In the future, we will also be looking to replace the enormous larch tree that was felled during a fierce storm this summer.

Many thanks to Westtown's Roadmaster Mark Gross and his crew for installing and anchoring the dedicated park bench.

**To see the location of the trees and park benches using Google Maps, enter the latitude, a comma, and the longitude in the search box. Click on search and view the resulting map in satellite view.*



Oakleaf Hydrangeas on 8/17/2015.



Larch tree felled by July storm. Note Friends of Oakbourne dedicated Princeton American elm tree in foreground which was narrowly missed by the falling tree.



This picture shows the area after removal of the fallen tree.



Park bench dedicated to the marriage of Christy Bare and Dan McMains (GPS coordinates- Latitude: 39.936586; Longitude: -75.573724).



Interested in Donating?

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

Westtown Community Garden News

The growing season for the Westtown Community Garden in Oakbourne Park is coming to an end. During the past year, 21 families have enjoyed three seasons of organically grown fresh vegetables, flowers and herbs. In addition, garden members donated over 300 pounds of produce to the West Chester Food Cupboard to help provide food to those in need.



If you are interested in joining the Westtown Community Garden in 2016, please contact Pam Coleman at the township office pcoleman@westtown.org or the garden committee chair, Julie Weidinger, at jmeos@comcast.net for information.



Westtown Community Garden Planters.

Fall Clean Up Reminders

It's that time of year again. The leaves that provide welcome shade in summer become a chore in fall. As you deal with your fall cleanup, please be mindful of the following:

- 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.

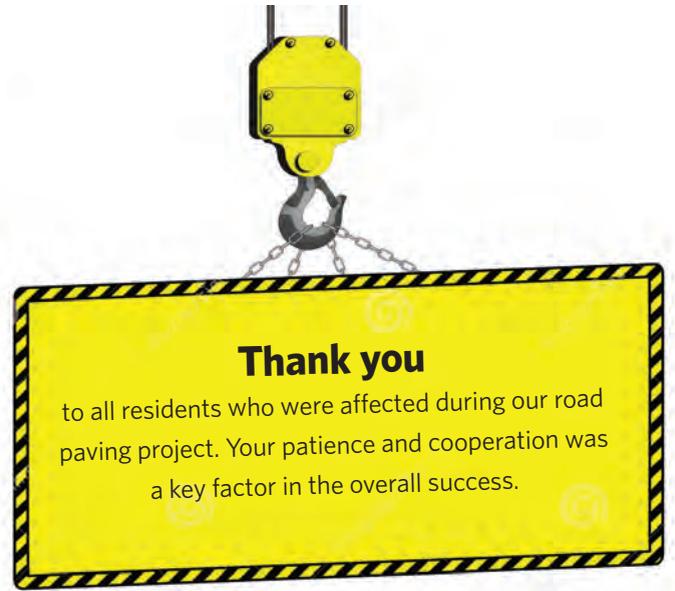
A few tips for handling yard waste:

- 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 curbside on the specified yard waste collection days (11/7, 11/21 and 12/12/15).
- DO NOT burn leaves. Leaf 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 critical to maintaining healthy soils and plants.

2015 Road Maintenance Program

The 2015 road maintenance project began the last week of August, and was completed in mid-September. We were fortunate to have perfect weather throughout the project, and an extremely capable contractor, Glasgow Inc. from Glenside, PA. The work was performed efficiently, with minimal disruption throughout the project, thereby providing quality road surfaces for all to enjoy.

This year's project consisted of removing the top 1.5 inches of asphalt, removal and replacement of any failed sub-base, leveling the road to provide a consistent profile, and applying a 1.5 inch layer of wearing course asphalt. Approximately 3 miles of roads were resurfaced using this method, and another 2.8 miles were significantly patched to extend their useful life until a full surface repair is warranted.



Milling on W. Pleasant Grove Road.



Sweeping and tack coating W. Pleasant Grove Road.



Asphalt wearing course application on Carmac Road at 352.



Base coat application on Cardinal Drive at Robin Drive.

Township Meetings & Events

OCTOBER, 2015

5, 19 – Board of Supervisors
7, 21 – Planning Commission
10 – Yard Waste Pickup
12 – Parks & Recreation
15 – Friends of Oakbourne
15 – Historical Commission

NOVEMBER, 2015

2, 16 – Board of Supervisors
4, 18 – Planning Commission
7 – Yard Waste Pickup
9 – Parks & Recreation
19 – Historical Commission
21 – Yard Waste Pickup

DECEMBER, 2015

6 – Holiday Festival, 12-3 p.m.
7, 21 – Board of Supervisors
9, 23 – Planning Commission
12 – Yard Waste Pickup
14 – Parks & Recreation
17 – Historical Commission

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – 7:30 p.m.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION – 6:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION – 7:30 p.m.

Township Municipal Building
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

FRIENDS OF OAKBOURNE – 7:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION – 7:00 p.m.

Oakbourne Mansion
1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown

Township Offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after, Christmas Day and the following Monday.

Residential Use and Occupancy Inspections

All residential properties in Westtown Township are required to obtain a Residential Certificate of Use and Occupancy Permit (U&O) prior to transferring of the property. Without a U&O, the buyer cannot inhabit the property.

A U&O is an inspection conducted by the Township, or its contracted third party agency as an added layer to verify that all residential homes within the Township meet the minimum safety standards to be inhabited as determined by the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Act (PA UCC).

Items that are addressed in the residential U&O Inspection include (but are not limited to):

- Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI/ GFI)
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Hand Railings and Balusters
- Thumb-turn Deadbolt Locks
- Pool Safety (where applicable)
- Exposed Electric Wiring
- General Health and Safety Items (as necessary)

The U&O permit application can be found at the Township's website, www.westtownpa.org/building-permit-applications.php, or at the Westtown Township Municipal Building. The first page is required to be filled out and submitted to the Township along with payment for the inspection. The second page is a guideline for residents and contractors to use when preparing their property for the U&O inspections.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AT OAKBOURNE MANSION:

Residents are cordially invited to the

6TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 6, 2015
from 12:00 to 3:00 PM

Oakbourne Mansion | 1014 S. Concord Road

Music, crafts, games and refreshments.



If you have any questions about the U&O form or inspection process, please contact the Township at 610-692-1930.

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 the triangle on bottom. Rinse clean. Remove lids and discard. Labels may be left on. NO styrofoam, unmarked containers, or containers marked with other than #1 through #7. No antifreeze or motor oil containers. Please do not include loose plastic bags. Plastic bags can be recycled at your local grocery store.

Aluminum:

Rinse clean. Cans may be flattened. NO bottle or jar lids. Pie plates and clean aluminum foil is OK. 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 CO-MINGLE LOOSELY with other recyclables, or your recycling will not be collected.

Yard Waste/Leaves:

Cannot be placed in the regular trash and will only be collected on scheduled days. Must be in paper bags or in a container that can be dumped. Branches cannot be more than 3" 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 *Westtown Gazette*, and on your utility bills.

Cardboard Boxes:

Must be cut in approximately 3 foot squares and tied in bundles. This is necessary because of the compacting system of the recycling truck. Cardboard not prepared this way will be taken with the regular trash. Cereal boxes and similar cardboard items may be combined with newspaper.

2015 Trash & Recycling Info

Holiday Pickup Schedule: Trash will not be collected on 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 hazardous waste or electronic waste in the regular trash. Visit the Trash & Recycling page on the township website or the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (www.chestercountyswa.org) for hazardous waste collection events scheduled throughout the county. Residential e-waste is accepted at Best Buy, and other electronics retailers.

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 furniture and appliances without Freon. 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.

AJB Trash & Recycling Service
A.J. Blosenski Inc.
www.ajblosenski.com
610.942.2707

Discount Code: Westtown
\$25.00 off
a Roll-off Dumpster
\$10.00 off
Junk Removal Service

Four Generations of Quality Service from the Blosenski Family

- 96 Gallon Carts Available
- Bulk Item Removal
- Special Cleanups
- Roll-off Dumpsters
- Storage Containers
- Commercial Compactors
- 1-40 Yard Containers
- Event & Party Boxes
- 100% Customer Satisfaction

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

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

Dependable Roll-Off Service

Servicing Westtown Township

MasterCard Discover VISA
Discount cannot be combined with any other offer.



Westtown Township
1039 Wilmington Pike
P.O. Box 79
Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395

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PAID
West Chester PA
Permit No 10

Does ReadyChesGo Alert You?

Sign up for Chester County's Notification System

Your Source For Emergency Information

By opting in to the Chester County notification system, you will be informed before, during and after incidents that could impact your safety.

