



# WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter To The Citizens Of Westtown Township - Spring Issue #17

## Westtown Township Comprehensive Plan Update

Westtown Township is in the initial stages of updating the 2001 Comprehensive Plan (the Plan). This update is significant, as the purpose of the Plan is to serve as the overriding vision and guide to both the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors when considering changes to Township ordinances and/or subdivision and land development applications. This planning process will be citizen-driven, and build upon the Township’s rich-history in an effort to develop a document that reflects both contemporary Westtown and how we will continue to thrive for future generations.

### Community Visioning Workshop

**If you live in Westtown, we need to hear from you...**If you have ever found yourself saying, “If I was in charge of this Township, here is what I would recommend doing,” then this process is the right time, the right place, and the right opportunity to share your thoughts.

As a resident who chooses to call Westtown home, you have your own unique story that brought you here. What draws all of us to Westtown is what makes the Township a special place, and results in the high quality of life we all expect as residents. At a Community Visioning Workshop on June 23 at Rustin High School, you are invited to tell not only your story, but also how you would like to see the Township grow and evolve over the next 20 years.

At this workshop, we would ask attendees to consider:

- What is your favorite characteristic about Westtown Township that makes it such a special place?
- What is the one thing you would change about our Township in order to continue our high quality of life?
- What most impacts your quality of life? Open Space? Taxes? Traffic? Development?

Whether you are a longtime resident or new to Westtown, please plan to share your thoughts on these important questions and more. Feedback gathered at the event will assist the Township in updating the Plan. Workshop facilitators will lead a series of fun and interactive exercises intended to capture your priorities and vision for the Township’s future.

### Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force

In order for the Plan to be truly citizen-driven, the Board of Supervisors recently appointed thirteen residents, including two Planning Commission members, to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force who will work directly with Township staff and the consultant team in the development of this update.

The first meeting of the Task Force was held on April 28, and future meetings will be posted on the Township website once the schedule is set. All of these meetings will be open to the public, and each will focus on a specific topic. If you are unable to attend the Visioning Workshop or Task Force meetings, or if you simply prefer not to attend, then please forward any input directly to the Director of Planning and Zoning, Chris Patriarca, at 610-692-1930, via email at cpatriarca@westtown.org, or by direct mail to the Township Office.

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# Westtown Township, County of Chester

## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



**Board of Supervisors:** Carol De Wolf, Tom Haws, Mike Di Domenico

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](http://www.westtownpa.org)

### CHESTER COUNTY USEFUL CONTACTS & PHONE NUMBERS

#### Chester County Government Services Center:

601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA, 19382

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 Court House:

313 W. Market Street, West Chester Borough

#### District Justice for Westtown:

William Kraut (District Court 15-2-03): 610-436-5757

#### 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 - 9th District:

Local: 610-358-5183 / State: 717-787-4712

#### State House - 156th District:

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

Email: [dtruitt@pahousegop.com](mailto:dtruitt@pahousegop.com)

#### U. S. Senators:

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

[www.toomey.senate.gov](http://www.toomey.senate.gov)

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

[www.casey.senate.gov](http://www.casey.senate.gov)

#### Congress - 6th District:

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

[www.costello.house.gov](http://www.costello.house.gov)

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### Westtown Road Detour

As part of the Westtown School Lake Dredging and Dam Replacement project, the culvert under Westtown Road is being replaced. Westtown Road is a PennDOT road, not a township road. This project is scheduled to start with the road closure on 6/13/2016. PennDOT will install detour signs on Friday, May 27th. Westtown School hopes to have the project completed in 6-8 weeks.

#### Phase IV On-Lot System Inspections Due

Residents in Phase IV of the On-Lot Sewage Management Program are required to have their initial system inspection paperwork submitted to the Township by December 7, 2016. Please refer to the On-Lot Sewage Management Program Guide on the township website for more information.

#### Ready Chesco Alerts

To sign up for Chester County's electronic notification system for emergency information go to [www.readychesco.org](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](http://www.westtownpa.org). There is no fee for residents who use this service.

#### Save paper!

If you would like to receive the *Westtown Gazette* electronically, send an email to [info@westtown.org](mailto: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.**

# Parks & Recreation Commission News

## Community Wildlife Habitat Certification

The Park & Recreation Commission is pleased to announce Westtown Township's participation in the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Certified Community Wildlife Habitat program. The program's goal is to educate residents on environmental issues affecting their community and give them opportunities to get involved in nurturing our wildlife-friendly community.

Part of the NWF program will also give residents access to educational materials on a variety of topics such as sustainable gardening practices, planting native species, water conservation, and protecting threatened species. Some upcoming park events will include information tables and workshops where residents can learn more about the program.

Residents looking to make a difference even closer to their homes can also seek out their own NWF Wildlife Certification in their backyard or school. Some Westtown families have already certified their own back yards through the NWF program. More information can be found at [www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx).

Interested residents will have the opportunity to volunteer on projects to help improve our parks. The Parks & Recreation Commission is exploring the potential for future park plantings, stream clean-ups, invasive species removal and other projects. Those interested in volunteering should send their contact information to [parkrec@westtown.org](mailto:parkrec@westtown.org).



## 2016 Community Yard Sale a Huge Success!

Buyers and sellers at the annual Westtown Community Yard Sale on Saturday April 16 enjoyed a gorgeous spring day as they browsed for treasures. Almost eighty sellers and hundreds of buyers transformed Oakbourne Park into a bustling flea market for the day. This annual event is made possible by the hard work and dedication of the members of the Township's Park and Recreation Commission.



*Cub Pack 151 from Penn Wood Elementary sold pretzels to hungry bargain hunters.*



# Friends of Oakbourne News

by Tom Bare - President, Friends of Oakbourne

After an unusually mild winter, I recently trekked around Oakbourne Park to inspect all the trees and shrubs that the Friends of Oakbourne have planted over the years. With a few exceptions most of the plantings made it through the winter just fine.

Several of the trees planted last year are spring blooming trees. These trees include the Carolina Silverbell, an unusual white blooming Eastern Redbud, and a Canada Red Chokecherry. At the time the pictures of these trees were taken (4/14/2016), all three were in the early stages of blooming with full blooms to come in a week or two.

Two other trees planted last year include a Japanese Stewartia and a Willow Oak. It was gratifying to see that both of these trees appear to be healthy and are beginning to leaf out.

Last year, the Friends of Oakbourne started a garden at the Oakbourne Park water tower by planting three Oakleaf Hydrangeas on each side of the path leading to the water tower's front entrance. All of these plants made it through the winter but did sustain some deer damage. In the photo, you can see how the deer nibbled off the tender tips of most of the plants. This certainly will not damage the plants since they are beginning to leaf out very strongly, but the plants may not have



*Carolina Silverbell Buds*



*Canada Red Chokecherry Buds*



*White Blooming Eastern Redbud*

many blossoms this year since the blossoms develop at the tips of the branches. As these plants get bigger, the deer will not be able to reach the higher branch tips so that blossoms and flowers should be prolific.

I also notice some severe deer damage on a 15 – 18 foot tall black tupelo tree that was planted several years ago. It appears a buck deer used his antlers to rub a large area of bark off the tree. Fortunately, the damage was confined to one side of the tree and the tree was beginning to leaf out very strongly. I intend to encircle the trunk of this tree with a fence to prevent further damage and to see if the tree will survive the summer.



If you've driven by Oakbourne Park on South Concord road recently, you probably noticed that the cherry trees in the extended grove next to the road have been blooming for several weeks. This grouping of 19 flowering cherry trees was planted 10 years ago by Friends of Oakbourne (with help from students from Westtown Thornbury School and the Boy Scouts) to celebrate Earth Day. The trees were planted in groups of three with each grouping having a different bloom time so that blossoms would be visible for many weeks instead of a week or two of blooming if the trees were all of the same variety.

Contact Tom Bare ([tmbare@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## Interested in improving your beautiful township park?

Please join us at the Friends of Oakbourne's upcoming meeting on July 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Oakbourne Park mansion.



*Japanese Stewartia leafing out*



*Close-up of young willow oak leaves just emerging*



*Oakleaf hydrangea deer damage*



*Black Tupelo damaged by buck deer antler rubbing*

# Girls, Globes, and Geography:

## How Westtown School Was at the Forefront of Geography Education

*by Eileen Fresta, Westtown Township Historical Commission*

In the years following the American Revolution, the study of geography and mapmaking became increasingly important to people living in the newly-formed United States. National and state borders were changing and expanding, and the need for accurate maps increased along with these border changes.

Visual maps were one way Americans were able to redefine the ever-changing boundaries between the wilderness, settled lands, and growing cities. In addition, with their newly-acquired freedoms and liberties, more people were able to purchase and own land. Understanding and reading maps was a useful skill for these landowners.

Through maps, they could understand the boundaries of their own property, visualize the location of roads and rivers, and measure the distance to markets near and far. For some Americans, maps became a source of pride in their expansive and growing nation, a physical symbol of strength and unity. Historians tell us that these maps helped to establish a sense of national “place” during the post-Revolutionary years. By the

early 1800s, it became apparent that children should be taught geography and mapmaking. Westward continental expansion, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, and the publication of Lewis and Clark’s travels and explorations all added to the growing appeal of geography as an important and necessary school subject for young scholars. Newspaper articles and advertisements described the necessity of training children to read maps and understand national and world geography.

One advertisement for a geography textbook also signaled a new direction in education, noting the book was designed for use by both young boys and girls. By including young girls as part of the book’s audience, the author helped pave the way for a generation of girls to embark on a study of geography and its companion studies of astronomy and mapmaking.

Like young girls elsewhere in the country, some Quaker girls attending the Westtown Boarding School in our township during the early 1800s studied geography. However, their



*Image courtesy of Westtown School Archives.*

Collection of Westtown School

coursework also included a heavy focus on needlework — an essential skill for women of that age. (Note: It is unclear what the process was, but only a select group of girls were allowed to study geography in the earliest days of the school's history.)

Because of the importance placed upon improving their needle skills, girls at Westtown during this period were spending about one-third of their class time in the sewing room. As a girl's sewing skills improved, she could advance from simple darning exercises to projects requiring greater attention to detail, one of which was the creation of terrestrial and celestial globes.

The globes, silk-covered spheres measuring about 4" to 6" in diameter, were produced from about 1804 to 1844. The silk covering forms a canvas for these globes. On the terrestrial globes, continents and bodies of water are hand painted and labeled, handwork done by the female students who created these globes. Lines of latitude and longitude are carefully stitched out with silk threads. Celestial globes, created with the same fabric and threads, show the stars and constellations as they appear in the sky over different parts of the world.

Creating this type of globe was not a project to be taken lightly. Rachel Cope, a student at Westtown School in 1816, wrote a letter to her parents about the globe she was about to make. She felt the undertaking would give her "a great deal of trouble" but would ultimately "strengthen [her] own memory,

respecting the supposed shape of our earth, and the manner in which it moves," according to Helen Hole's book *Westtown Through the Years 1799-1942*. Rachel's description of these globes indicates a basic understanding of geography and astronomy, concepts most likely learned outside the sewing room and in a geography class.

The reason for making the globes is unknown, but may have included learning geography, advanced sewing skills, how to use a globe, or some combination of all these concepts. Certainly the detailed continental outlines and carefully marked outlines of latitude and longitude reveal a level of proficiency in creating and drawing maps to scale, a skill being taught to some of the girls at Westtown. Constructing these personal globes may have provided an additional benefit to the school: until about 1815, globes were generally imported from Europe at great expense. These hand-crafted silk globes, some mounted on wooden stands, may have helped alleviate the need to purchase classroom globes for teaching. Some have survived and are in the Westtown School and Chester County Historical Society collections. Whatever the reason behind their production, making globes during the early 1800s coincided with the growing national demand for geographic studies in schools. At Westtown, geographic terms and concepts would be reinforced in the minds of young Quaker girls while they focused on improving their stitching skills.



# Westtown Community History Day

September 17, 2016

Westtown Township will be holding its inaugural Community History Day on Saturday, September 17 from 10AM to 2PM at Oakbourne Park. This event is hosted by the Parks & Recreation and Historical Commissions. Learn about Westtown's rich past, notable residents, and historic events since its inception in 1685, over three hundred years ago.

Westtown schools, businesses, and individuals will showcase their pride in the township. Events include a presentation about the Civil War POW camp right here in Westtown called Camp Elder, a play about an ordinary Westtown resident, a free black farmer named Isaac Winters, who fought bravely in the Civil War, and tours of the Oakbourne Mansion and community garden. There will also be Civil War reenactors, classic childrens' games, food and beverages. Come and meet your neighbors! All ages are welcome.

## Interested in sponsoring this event?

Please contact Westtown Historical Commission member Erica Reilly at [ericamreilly@gmail.com](mailto:ericamreilly@gmail.com) for more information. Sponsors will be listed in the event program, and on the township website.



*Civil War Camp Reenactment.*

# Westtown Township 2016 Road Maintenance Program

This summer the township will be milling and resurfacing approximately 5 miles of township roads. The roads slated for improvement are itemized below. Notification will be sent to residents prior to road resurfacing.

## Grandview Acres:

Louise Lane  
West Lynn Drive

## Westover Farms:

Woodland Road

## Coventry Village:

Coventry & S. Coventry Lane

## Westtown Park:

S. Garden Circle  
Garden Circle

## Osborne Hill:

Kimberly Lane  
Jennifer Lane

## West Glen:

Dalmally Drive  
(Street Road to Knoll Way)

## Pleasant Grove:

Blenheim Road  
Tower Course Drive to Cul-de-sac  
Fielding Drive  
Cockburn Drive to Piedmont Road  
Piedmont Road  
Rt. 202 North to Fielding Drive  
Woodstock Lane

## West Wynn I:

Charles Road  
Diane Drive  
(Grant Road to Cul-de-sac)

## Edgewood Chase:

Edgewood Chase Drive  
Powderhorn Drive

# Westtown East Goshen Police (WEGO) News



Members of the department displaying the Certificate of Law Enforcement Accreditation in front of the police department. Pictured from L to R: Officer Ted Lewis, Officer Eric Ruggeri, Sergeant Leo Kennedy, Chief of Police Brenda Bernot, Lieutenant Guy Rosato, Accreditation Manager Mary Lee, Officer Mark Seuffert and Officer Mark McKinney.

On March 30, 2016, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) voted unanimously to award accreditation status to the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department (WEGO). The achievement of accreditation was the culmination of a year of intense work by members of the police department, and places the department among the 8% of all law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania which have received accreditation through PLEAC.

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program in July of 2001. The program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania. There are many benefits associated with accreditation including decreased liability insurance expenditures, reduced agency risk and exposure to lawsuits, improved community relations, and increased agency accountability to the public.

In order to become accredited, an agency must demonstrate that it meets the 132 standards developed by PLEAC. To meet these standards, the agency must present evidence to a team of assessors that the agency has a policy in place to address each standard and that officers are stringently complying with the policy. These standards include important areas such as procedures relating to patrol operations, vehicle pursuits, use of force, detention of prisoners, and property/evidence control. In order to retain accreditation status, the department must undergo a reaccreditation assessment every three years. The on-going accreditation process will guarantee that the department continually reviews and revises departmental procedures, thereby ensuring that the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department is in compliance with the national best practices in policing.

The police department would like to thank the elected officials of East Goshen, Westtown, and Thornbury Townships, and the citizens of the townships for their support and encouragement during the accreditation process.

# Township Meetings & Events

## MAY, 2016

2, 16 - Board of Supervisors  
4, 18 - Planning Commission  
7 - Yard Waste Collection  
10 - Parks & Recreation  
19 - Historical Commission

## JUNE, 2016

4 - Yard Waste Collection  
6, 20 - Board of Supervisors  
8, 22 - Planning Commission  
14 - Parks & Recreation  
16 - Historical Commission  
17 - P&R Movie Night  
23 - Comp Plan Visioning (Rustin HS)

## JULY, 2016

5, 18 - Board of Supervisors  
6, 20 - Planning Commission  
9 - Yard Waste Collection  
12 - Parks & Recreation  
15 - P&R Movie Night  
21 - Historical Commission  
21 - Friends of Oakbourne

## AUGUST, 2016

1,15 - Board of Supervisors  
3,17 - Planning Commissions  
9 - Parks & Recreation  
18 - Historical Commission  
19 - P&R Movie Night

**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 Memorial Day,  
Independence Day, and Labor Day.*

# Finance Report

In a press release dated March 15th, 2016, Moody's Investors Service announced the upgrade of Westtown Township's General Obligations Bonds to Aa2 from Aa3. The upgrade affects \$14.3 million in rated debt outstanding.

The Aa2 reflects the sizeable growth in the township's General Fund reserve levels over the past three years, strengthening its financial position and liquidity levels. The rating further incorporates the township's manageable debt burden, moderately sized tax base, and high wealth levels.

Detailed rating considerations were:

- **Economy and Tax Base: Moderately Sized and Wealthy Tax Base Expected to Remain Stable**

The township's wealth levels are strong, with per capita income and median family income at 180.2% and 199.1% of the U.S. median respectively. Poverty levels in the township are very low at 2.3%, or approximately six times less than the state and seven times less than the U.S.

- **Financial Operations and Reserves: Healthy Financial Cushion Provides Budgetary Flexibility**

The township's finances will remain healthy in the near term. Available General Fund reserves grew from a sufficient 9% of General Fund revenue in fiscal 2011 to a strong 36% of General Fund revenue in fiscal 2014. Driving this positive trend is a combination of prudent fiscal management and increase in property taxes in 2013.

- **Management and Governance**

In 2014, the township enacted a formal Fund Balance Policy as part of a comprehensive financial policy setting the levels of reserved and unreserved fund balances. The purpose of the policy is to set guidelines for fund balances to ensure financial security through the maintenance of a healthy reserve fund to protect against reducing service levels or raising taxes and fees due to temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenditures. Moody's views enactment of a formal fund balance policy and a capital improvement plan as a credit positive.

# 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. Please do not include loose plastic bags. Plastic bags can be recycled at your local grocery store. Please do not put them in your recycling bin as they get tangled in the conveyors at the recycling plant. **NO STYROFOAM**, even if marked recyclable.

## 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 - Milk cartons, 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 COMINGLE LOOSELY** with other recyclables, or your recycling will not be collected.

## Yard Waste/Leaves:

Cannot be placed in the regular trash & only 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" in length and must be tied and bundled. Yard Waste collection dates are posted on the Township website [westtownpa.org](http://westtownpa.org), in the *Westtown Gazette*, and on your utility bills.

## Corrugated Cardboard Boxes:

Must be cut into approximately 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 paper.

# 2016 Trash & Recycling Info

**New in 2016!** Our recycling processor is now able to accept beverage cartons, such as milk, orange juice, and juice boxes.

**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 hazardous waste or electronic waste in the regular trash. Visit [chestercountyswa.org](http://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 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.

**AJB** Trash & Recycling Service  
**A.J. Blosenski Inc.**  
[www.ajblosenski.com](http://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

**Dependable Roll-Off Service**

**Servicing Westtown Township**

Discount cannot be combined with any other offer.

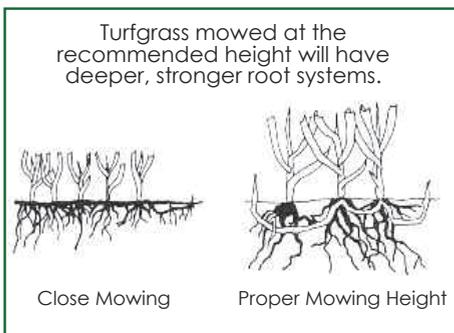


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 1039 Wilmington Pike  
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 Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395

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 West Chester PA  
 Permit No 10

## Raise Mower Height for Healthier Lawns, Cleaner Water

Turfgrass, like other plants, must manufacture sugars through photosynthesis in their leaves if they are to develop into a high quality lawn. Closely mowed lawns have limited leaf area to take in the sunlight to produce the food they need to be healthy.



Source: Ohio State University Extension

In addition to leaf area, a direct relationship exists between the height of turfgrass plants and the depth and total mass of their root system. ***Kentucky blue grass and tall fescue lawns mowed at the recommended summer height of 3 inches have roots more than twice as deep as those of closely cropped lawns.*** The shallow, weak roots of closely mowed lawns exhibit stress first and loss of grass plants to competing weeds is more likely, particularly during the summer. Raising mower heights during the summer will keep soil temperatures cooler, preserve soil moisture and help maintain turfgrass quality.

Thicker lawns are more weed resistant, absorb more stormwater, lose less sediment during storms, and need less fertilizer. So this June, ***remember to raise your mower height to three inches, or remind your lawn service company, for a healthier lawn and cleaner streams this summer.***



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER!**