Manager’s Message:

**A look back…a look ahead.**

2015 was another eventful year in Westtown Township and 2016 will be no different. Following is a sampling of noteworthy items:

**Township Website.** In December 2015, the completely new township website went live. The website is a significant improvement over the previous site, with intuitive access to resident resources and well-organized drop-down menus for boards, commissions and departments. Additional content will be added throughout the year including FAQs. You are encouraged to visit the website at www.westtownpa.org.

**WEGO.** Staffing changes will be implemented in the Westtown - East Goshen Regional Police Department. Two full-time officers will replace two part-time officers in the Patrol Unit. One officer will be added to the Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) resulting in two two-officer TSU squads, and the Community Resource Officer will become a full-time position. These changes will provide for enhanced policing services to Westtown, East Goshen and Thornbury townships.

**Sewer Capital Improvements Program.** Many of Westtown’s sewers are in need of maintenance upgrades to ensure their longevity. Over a period of five years, the Sewer Capital Improvements Program will evaluate the condition of all sewer pipes, manholes and pump stations. A cost-benefit analysis will then determine a schedule of improvements over a five to ten year period. Throughout the next several months, trucks with special equipment will be staged throughout the township to perform remote-controlled videotaping of several miles of sewer pipes to record and document their condition for engineers to study and make improvement recommendations.

**On-lot Sewage Management Program.** Phases 1 and 2 of the Sewage Management Program (SMP) have been completed, whereas Phases 3 and 4 will be completed by December 2016. The Program’s results have been outstanding. By the end of 2016, Westtown will have the best inspected, maintained, and operating on-lot sewage systems in the region.

**New Developments.** The Rite Aid Pharmacy project near the intersection of routes 3 and 352 has recently been completed and is open for business. Planning is underway to raise the former Rite Aid and adjacent Giant grocery store in the Westtown Marketplace Shopping Center and construct a larger Giant in their place. Adding to the community’s retail choices, the Amish Market was recently opened in the Westtown Village Shopping Center at the intersection of routes 202 and 926. Next door is a Planet Fitness. Lastly, the 50-lot residential development at the Rustin High School property was approved by the Westtown Board of Supervisors in 2015, and construction is expected to start in mid-2016. These developments remind us that Westtown is a sought-after community for families to live, work and play.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable 2016. As always, please stop in at the township building for a visit. I welcome the opportunity to meet you, hear your concerns, and answer any questions about Westtown Township.

Regards,

Rob Pingar
Township Manager
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: 610-344-6300
- 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

U.S. Senators:
- Pat Toomey: Local: 215-241-1090 / Federal 202-224-4254
  www.toomey.senate.gov
  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.

Parks & Recreation Commission Vacancy. The township is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission. If you would like to become involved with P&R programs, activities, and planning, please send your letter of interest and resume to the Township Manager, Rob Pingar.

Ready Chesco Alerts. To sign up for Chester County’s electronic notification system for emergency information go to 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.

Save paper! If you would like to receive the Westtown Gazette electronically, send an email to info@westtownpa.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.
In late 2015, Westtown was awarded a $25,000 grant from the Chester County Planning Commission to assist in the full update of the Township’s comprehensive plan, the 2001 Growth Management Plan. In order to accomplish this project, in December 2015 the Board of Supervisors appointed a project team consisting of the Brandywine Conservancy of Chadds Ford and Thomas Comitta Associates of West Chester.

The purpose of the comprehensive plan is to serve as the overriding vision and provide guidance to both the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors when considering changes to Township ordinances and/or land development applications. This planning process will be citizen-driven and build upon our rich-history in an effort to develop a document that reflects contemporary Westtown and how we will continue to thrive for future generations. Regular updates on this process will be included in future issues of the Gazette.

In order for the plan to be truly citizen-driven, the process will encompass numerous elements to solicit participation directly from the citizens. Specifically, one of these components will be the establishment of a Citizens Advisory Committee. This nine to thirteen member Committee will meet regularly with the project team and Township staff and serve as a primary force in keeping the process driven by the citizens. These ten to twelve meetings will occur in the evenings at the Township Administration Building and be open to the public.

As such, the Township would like to invite interested residents to submit a brief cover letter that describes your background, tenure in the Township, as well as why you are interested in serving on this Committee. Any questions on this Committee appointment should be forwarded to Township Planning Director Chris Patriarca. He can be reached during the week at the Township Office (610-692-1930) or via e-mail at cpatriarca@westtownpa.org.

Please submit this letter by no later than March 7 to Mr. Patriarca for consideration on this committee.

Parks & Recreation Events

It’s time to think about spring cleaning!
Mark your calendar for the annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 16, at Oakbourne Park from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you are interested in being a seller at the yard sale, you must register in advance to set up a table. The cost for Westtown residents is $15, non-residents $30. Registration will begin in early March. Forms and information will be on the Township website www.westtownpa.org.

Westtown Wellness 5K Fun Run
The Parks & Recreation Commission is also planning a Westtown Wellness 5K Fun Run on Sunday, May 15th. Save the date and stay tuned to the township website for registration information.
Westtown Township’s 19th Century Cottage

William Coburn House: 1142 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA 19382

In the rush of today’s daily life you may not have seen it staring back at you for all these years. It is only in the subdued moments sitting in rush hour traffic at the intersection of Street Road (Rt. 926) and Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202) that you notice the collection of aging buildings and begin to visualize how this particular crossroads may have been way back in time. Imagine when it was a thriving country village, consisting of a bustling drover’s inn, a busy smithy and wheelwright shop, and an enterprising general store/post office dispensing everything from groceries to hardware to clothing to stamps to the weary travelers going south to Wilmington or north to the Chester County seat of West Chester. Imagine, too, a handful of 19th century homes surrounding the crossroads.

The small village originally went by the name of Thornbury (namesake of today’s Thornbury Township), but around 1823, changed to Darlington’s Corners after local businessman Benedict Darlington founded his Westtown Factory for the weaving of cotton and wool on the east side of Wilmington Pike — just north of the village. Joseph H. Brinton also opened a general store and a wheelwright shop in the 1830’s. Between the late 1860s and the late 1880s marked the village’s most prosperous period that included the construction of several more small shops and private houses. Although many of the historic businesses have been lost to time, many of the original houses still stand as a reminder of earlier times.


Rural homebuilders utilized these published building designs and specifications as a step-by-step construction instruction to create a modern contemporary 19th century home. Downing believed every American deserved a good quality home where its architecture and landscape gardening could positively affect the morals of the owners as well as “better” all those who have contact with the home. In his 1850 publication, Architecture of Country Houses, he included Picturesque Gothic and Italianate designs for cottages, farmhouses and villas defining their interiors, furniture and the best methods of warming and ventilating them. Through these publications he was credited with the popularization of the front porch as the link to nature. Building porches had just become easier to construct due to the advance in building methods and resulted in the frequency of front porches being built on new residences at that time. Downing believed interacting with nature had a healing effect on mankind and wanted all people to be able to experience nature thru his architecture.
Built in what is commonly referred to as the Carpenter Gothic style, the William Coburn house is dominated by a wide front porch and large double-hung windows that embraced Downing’s natural open air philosophy. A separate barn and small carriage house was also constructed on the farmstead in the same Carpenter Gothic style. Although it is unclear how the barn and carriage house were lost to time, the main house still stands much as it did in 1873. The front porch maintains its original chamfered wood post and decorative wood carved fretwork brackets inspired by Downing’s pattern book details, while the original windows and shutters still function as well as the day they were installed.

Inside, an original 19th century fireplace mantle, raised panel doors with original Victorian box locks, door casings, deep curved plaster window jamb, random-width yellow pine wood flooring, and winder stairs remain intact.

In 1894 the property was inherited by William’s son James T. Coburn where he subsequently added a large kitchen wing on the rear elevation effectively doubling the size of the house. This wood frame stuccoed addition was built with exposed hand hewn wood floor joists and yellow pine flooring. The side elevations of the original serpentine section were stuccoed as well to coordinate with this new 1894 addition. James Coburn spent less than a year in the house before selling it to Harry Jones in 1895. Jones later sold it in 1900 to Nathaniel Leaf who coincidentally served alongside William Coburn in the Spanish American War. Both men were enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard in April 1898 and fought together during the 10-week altercation with Spain. Leaf possibly used his mustering out pay to acquire the property.

In 1907, Leaf sold the property to Ruth Roberts, who renamed the farmstead “Bluebird Hill” and operated the farmstead as a plant nursery until 1961, when she sold it to artist Howard Yarnell. Yarnell converted the house to an art studio and renamed it “Painter’s Hill.” Over the 34 years he resided there he observed the large scale development of Westtown Township and the widening of Route 202 almost to his doorstep. As Father Time approached, Yarnell finally placed his beloved house up for sale ultimately selling it to John Crowley in early May 1995. Presently the William Coburn house and adjacent Wilmington Pike property are owned by Crebilly Farm Family Associates.

On your travels south on Wilmington Pike take a moment and look left to imagine a time in history (1870) when President Ulysses S. Grant was overseeing the readmission of Virginia, Mississippi and Georgia to the Union of 37 states after the Civil War, and the ratification of the 15th Amendment giving African Americans the right to vote. To a time when Wilmington Pike was a small country road populated with horse drawn carriages and William Coburn was completing construction on his new home in the small southern Chester County village of Thornbury (Darlington Corners). History is told all around us in Westtown Township if one is aware of its background. By reading this article, and understanding the story of this forgotten little 19th century cottage, your morning commute along Route 202 will never be quite the same.

- Westtown Historical Commission
The next time you visit our township’s beautiful Oakbourne Park, check out the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) kiosk adjacent to the main parking area. The kiosk now contains a map of the main park area, which shows the locations of all the dedicated trees and park benches installed by the FoO since our current dedication program began in 2005. A list containing the names of the honorees, dates of tree/bench installations, type of trees and GPS coordinates is next to the map so one can easily locate a specific person of interest and their tree or bench. The map and list of tree/bench honorees will be updated yearly to reflect new donations to our tree/bench dedication program.

During the last quarter of 2015, a park bench dedicated by the Mengel-Barton family to the memory of Kevin E. Mengel, Jr. was installed in Oakbourne Park in an area southeast of the mansion near two large evergreen trees. The bench is located close to an area where a huge larch tree was recently felled by a storm; in the spring a larch tree will be planted in this area near the bench to replace the one that was lost.

Two other trees were planted this fall on the strip of lawn between the park road (leading to the Gaudenzia area) and the community gardens parking area. One of the trees is an unusual and somewhat rare Eastern Redbud tree (cercis canadensis ‘royal white’) that will have white flowers instead of the usual purple-pink flowers associated with redbuds. This tree will mature to a height of 25-30 feet and in early spring will provide prolific clusters of pristine white, pea-sized flowers that seem to encase the bare branches.

The other tree planted on the lawn strip is a Canada red chokecherry tree (prunus virginiana ‘Canada red’) which is also a medium sized tree. In the spring, the leaves of this tree initially emerge with a green color which, as the summer progresses, eventually turn to a deep purple color. Fragrant, white, spring flowers are followed by sweet purplish red fruit, very attractive to birds in the summer. The redbud and chokecherry trees were both generously donated to the Friends of Oakbourne by West Chester Agway. FoO would especially like to thank Bill Wall (nursery manager at West Chester Agway) for his help in transporting these trees to the park.
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.

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

Royal White Eastern Redbud.

Canada Red Chokecherry.

Interested in Donating?

Remembered Always
Kevin E. Mengel Jr.
1976 - 2010
Westtown East Goshen Police (WEGO) News

On 01/13/16, approximately 25 members of the Chester County law enforcement community were honored at a Chester County Police Chiefs Association luncheon for saving lives through the administration of naloxone, a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids during an overdose. Among those honored at the luncheon were Patrol Officers Leon Bynum and Ted Lewis of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department.

On 05/16/15, officers of the department were dispatched to a report of a 23 year old male in cardiac arrest. Upon their arrival at the scene, the officers observed that a family member was performing CPR on the subject. After determining that the subject had used heroin, Officer Bynum administered naloxone to the subject. The subject immediately revived and was transported to the hospital.

On 09/24/15, officers of the department were dispatched to a report of an attempted suicide involving a 33 year old male. Upon their arrival at the scene, the officers observed that the subject was unconscious and in critical condition. After determining that the subject had intentionally overdosed on pills, Officer Lewis administered naloxone to the subject. The subject immediately revived and was transported to the hospital.

Congratulations to Officers Bynum and Lewis for their awards. Their calm professionalism and dedication to duty gave two young men a second chance with their lives.

In December, Corporal Steven Ranck of the Pennsylvania State Police presented Officer Russell Weaverling of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department with a donated Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) device on behalf of the Trooper Kenton Iwaniec Memorial Foundation. The device is utilized by police officers to determine the presence of alcohol in a motorist and is a highly effective tool in fighting impaired driving. The Trooper Kenton Iwaniec Memorial Foundation was formed in memory of Trooper Kenton Iwaniec, a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, who was killed in 2008 by a severely impaired woman just minutes after completing his shift at the Avondale Station in Chester County. The Foundation’s goal is to provide a PBT to every police station in Pennsylvania to combat impaired driving. Officer Weaverling’s application for a PBT was granted by the Foundation due to his demonstrated commitment to DUI enforcement. Since joining the police department in 2012, Officer Weaverling has made 51 DUI arrests.
Winter Weather Reminders & Generator Safety Tips

After an unseasonably mild December, winter is upon us. The Public Works Department would like to remind residents of the policy regarding mailboxes damaged during snowplowing operations. Most often, damage to mailboxes is sustained from snow as it comes off of the plow. The snowplow drivers do not try to hit mailboxes with the plowed snow; however, on occasion this does happen. The township will not replace mailboxes damaged by snow coming off the plow.

A sound post and securely attached box will not be knocked over by snow coming off the plow. It is helpful to use a reflector to make your mailbox more visible to plow drivers. Also check that the placement of your mailbox in the right-of-way follows the US Postal Service Standards for Residential Mailboxes: “Curbside mailboxes should be set back 6” to 8” from the front face of the curb or road edge to the mailbox door.”

Plow drivers are instructed to drive as slow as realistically possible during wet snows in order to minimize the problems with mailboxes. However, mailboxes are considered an encroaching, albeit official, structure in the right-of-way and the township is not responsible for damage to these encroachments.

Portable Generator Safety Tips:

Never Use a Generator Inside:
- Garages
- Crawl Spaces
- Sheds
- Carports
- Basements

Exhaust gases can cause Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning even in vented areas. Install home CO alarms with battery back-up.

Proper Outdoor Use:
- Place in a dry location outside
- Keep 20 feet away from buildings
- Do not touch a generator with wet hands

Use and Store Fuel Safely:
- Shut down generator before refueling
- Store fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas
- Use only fuel recommended on the label or in the instructions

Connect your Generator Properly:
- Turn off or disconnect all devices before operating the generator
- Devices should be turned on one at a time to avoid overloading the generator
- Use proper extension cords
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet

Shut Down Procedures:
- Turn off and unplug all devices being powered by the unit before shut down
- Drain fuel from generator while it is in storage
- Check fuel and oil before restarting
Township Meetings & Events

FEBRUARY, 2016
1, 16 (Tues) – Board of Supervisors
3, 17 – Planning Commission
6 – Yard Waste Collection
16 – Parks & Recreation
18 – Historical Commission

MARCH, 2016
7, 21 – Board of Supervisors
5 – Yard Waste Collection
8 – Parks & Recreation
9, 23 – Planning Commission
17 – Historical Commission

APRIL, 2016
2 – Yard Waste Collection
4 – Board of Supervisors
6, 20 – Planning Commission
12 – Parks & Recreation
16 – Township Yard Sale
21 – Historical Commission
21 – Friends of Oakbourne

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 Presidents’ Day and Good Friday.

Local Tax Return
Due Monday, April 18th

Taxpayers with earned income in 2015 are required to file a Final Tax Return by Monday, April 18.

It’s that time of year again. The 2015 local earned income tax return filing deadline is approaching. The due date is extended to Monday, April 18 this year because Washington, D.C. is commemorating Emancipation Day on Friday, April 15.

Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can e-file on our tax administrator’s secure website, which is available 24/7 at KeystoneCollects.com.

Keystone Collections Group’s e-file is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2015 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

Keystone redesigned e-file to make it even faster and more user-friendly.

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, visit Keystone’s Frequently Asked Questions or call Keystone’s Taxpayer Helpline at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions 24/7 to Taxpayer Support. Taxpayer Service Agents try to respond to all online inquiries within three business days.

SAVE THE DATE!
WESTTOWN WELLNESS 5K RUN

Sunday, May 15, 2016
Oakbourne Park | 1014 S. Concord Road
**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. 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, 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 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.
The Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association and Penn State University - Brandywine present

**Backyard Solutions for Healthy Streams**

Lessons from Philadelphia’s *Green City, Clean Waters* Program

**Featured Speaker:**

**Maggie Dunn**

Philadelphia Water Department

**February 28, 2016**

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Penn State-Brandywine

Tomezsko Building Auditorium

25 Yearsley Mill Road

Media, PA 19063

Register for this free event at [www.crcwatersheds.org/green16](http://www.crcwatersheds.org/green16) or by calling 610-359-1440.