Hello Westtown Neighbors,

It is virtually impossible to think about this new year without referencing the last, 2020! How best to summarize this past year? The cause of unimaginable chaos and disruption to our way of living; of incalculable pain, sadness and fear to so many. 2020 tried our sense of personal well-being and safety. It challenged us in ways we could not have ever imagined. It frustrated us to the core. What and who was to be believed when directions were given seemed inconsistent, even contradictory. The “goal-posts” of what to do and what not to do; the right things to do, and not to do kept changing. There is no surprise in the refrain heard again and again: “I can’t wait for 2021!”

It’s here! Though with a significant caveat left-over: As life-altering as 2020 was in so many ways, the candid truth is it will continue to be with us. Until everyone one of us has been vaccinated. Until all of society is fully open and safely functioning. Until working from home is a matter of choice, rather than compulsory. Until the very real, if subtle, discomfiture in the pit of the stomach that exists for so many - when shopping or teaching or at the hospital or when waiting in lines at the supermarket or at restaurants or religious services or life celebrations or simply walking in the neighborhood or at parks or wherever - will have dissipated.

That said, I am guided by a leadership truism: “Whether out of necessity or circumstance, from difficulty comes opportunity... for continuity & change.” An apt reflection of Westtown Township in 2021. For example, whilst the composition of the Board of Supervisors is unchanged, as is customary, each member has already taken on different responsibilities. For 2021, Carol De Wolf will serve as Chair, Scott Yaw will serve as Vice Chair, and I will serve as Police Commissioner. In addition, comprised of familiar and new faces, the Planning, Parks & Recreation, and Historical Commissions have agendas full with projects. Some already underway; others to be taken up again, having had to be postponed or delayed; with new ones to come.

From the perspective of the Board of Supervisors, 2021 will mean substantive constructive change for meeting the needs of Westtown residents. For example, in addition to Jon Altshul having joined in November as Township Manager, February 1st marks Maggie Dobbs’ first day as Westtown Township’s Planning & Zoning Director/Assistant Township Manager. For those who cannot attend Board meetings, its proceedings are now being live streamed via YouTube, where recordings are retained for six months.

And, in addition to newly proposed developments, the BOS will have critical decisions to make regarding the Oakbourne Master Plan, the creation of an Environmental Advisory Council, as well as, of course, the future of Crebilly. Just to name a few. 2021 promises to be busy.

Let it be, too, healthy, safe, and productive for everyone.

Richard Pomerantz
Richard (Dick) Pomerantz
Board of Supervisors

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Westtown Township, County of Chester
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Board of Supervisors: Carol De Wolf, Scott Yaw, Richard Pomerantz
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

Chester County Government Services Center:
601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382
Information: 610-344-6000
Aging Services: 610-344-6350
Children, Youth, & Families: 610-344-5800
Emergency Services: 610-344-5000
Health Department: 610-344-6225
Septic Systems: 610-344-6526
Recycling/Hazardous Waste: 610-273-3771
License Bureau (Dog, Fishing, Hunting): 610-344-6370
Marriage License Bureau: 610-344-6335
Passports: 610-344-6310
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, PA 19380

District Justice for Westtown:
Martinn Goch (District Court 15-2-03): 610-436-5757

Chester County Conservation District:
610-925-4920

West Chester Area School District:
782 Springdale Drive, Exton, PA 19341
Main Number: 484-266-1000 / School Tax: 484-266-1035

State Senate - 9th District:
John Kane: Local: 610-436-3320 / State: 717-787-4712
www.legis.state.pa.us

State House - 156th District:
Dianne Herrin (D): Local: 610-696-4990 / State: 717-705-2075
www.pahouse.com/herrin

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

Congress – 6th District:
Chrissy Houlahan (D): Local: 610-883-5050 / Federal 202-225-4315
www.house.gov/houlahan

For Police, Fire, & Medical Emergencies, DIAL 911.
For Non-Emergencies: 610-692-5100

BULLETIN BOARD

Live Streaming of Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Meetings
Break out the popcorn! Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings are now being streamed live on the Township’s YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpeMKfH_U_VpJ7FH0TkwtA.

Coronavirus Covid-19
For information and prevention tips on the Coronavirus, please visit the PA Health Dept. website at https://www.health.pa.gov or the Chester County Health Department website: https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19. A 24/7 call center has also been established: (610) 344-6225.

Ready Chesco
This service is used to notify you during a major crisis or emergency, and delivers important emergency alerts, such as weather, road closures, health, or community alerts. To sign up for Chester County’s electronic notification system for emergency information go to: http://www.readychesco.org.

Stay Informed
To receive information about meetings, special events, and public service announcements via email, please go to the Township website and click on the blue Get Email Alerts button at the top of any page.

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

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.

Follow us on Facebook

For Police, Fire, & Medical Emergencies, DIAL 911.
Manager’s Corner

On behalf of all Township staff, it gives me great pleasure to wish all of you a very happy New Year!

Comings and Goings
Please join me in welcoming Margaret “Maggie” Dobbs as the Township’s new Director of Planning and Zoning and Assistant Township Manager. Maggie brings an impressive professional background to Westtown, having served most recently as a senior planner for the Montgomery County (PA) Planning Commission. Her first day is February 1.

Appointments
At its January 4th reorganization meeting, the Board of Supervisors appointed Carol De Wolf as Chair, Scott Yaw as Vice Chair, and Richard Pomerantz as Police Commissioner for 2021. In addition, the Board appointed Marshall Lerner as the Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board and Patrick McDonough to the Historical Commission. Elaine Adler was reappointed to the Planning Commission, Pamela Boulos was reappointed to the Historical Commission, and Meghan Hanney was reappointed to Parks & Recreation. Congrats to everyone!

Truck Restrictions on West Pleasant Grove Road
In response to concerns about unsafe driving conditions and the deterioration of the roadway, the Board of Supervisors voted to prohibit trucks longer than 30 feet or wider than 96 inches on West Pleasant Grove Road. We are hopeful that this prohibition will help ensure that Westtown’s roads remain safe.

Sunoco Pipeline
Energy Transfer expects to complete the pull back of the 20” Mariner East pipeline at Saints Simon & Jude Church in mid-February. Once that pullback is complete, Energy Transfer and its contractors will finish site remediation and pull out of Westtown once and for all.

Crebilly Farm Conditional Use Hearings
The second round of Conditional Use Hearings on Toll Brother’s proposal to develop Crebilly Farm will continue into 2021. The next hearing dates will be at 7pm on January 26, February 23, and March 23 on Zoom. Call-in information is available on the Township website.

Livestreaming
Cancel your Netflix subscription and break out the popcorn! Board of Supervisors meetings are now being livestreamed on the Township’s YouTube channel. In addition, because we expect to continue to hold public meetings on Zoom for the foreseeable future, all residents can now participate in Board of Supervisors meetings by video. Previously, residents were restricted to participating by phone. Check the website for more details.

Jon Altshul
Township Manager

Introducing State Representative Dianne Herrin

Dianne Herrin has been elected as our next State Representative for the 156th Legislative District, which includes all of Westtown Township. Representative Herrin has served as the Mayor of West Chester for three years and has 12 years of professional experience as an energy efficiency and renewable energy consultant for large commercial and municipal clients.

Representative Herrin has placed service to the residents of our district as her top priority, and she encourages us to reach out for assistance with any and all state-related issues such as PennDOT concerns, birth/death certificates, unemployment compensation, issues impacting seniors, property tax/rent rebates, and more. She also strongly encourages residents to call or email her office with concerns, questions, and ideas about all of the issues of concern to you.

Representative Herrin will retain the same local office and phone number as our prior Representative Carolyn Comitta and is setting up the office and hiring support staff through the month of January. The office is up and running, so please reach out! Representative Herrin looks forwarding to serving you.

Dianne Herrin
21 West Washington Street, Suite A
West Chester, PA 19380
610.696.4990
DHerrin@pahouse.net
Why Do We Need to Know This?
By Robert Kodosky, Historical Commissioner

This question is one that history teachers know well. Students ask it often. Responses generally involve some variation of the need “to learn from the past so we do not repeat it.” Students rarely find this answer satisfactory. Rolling their eyeballs renders this evident. The exchange might be frustrating, but it is hardly surprising.

Young people live in the moment. Their existence, socially oriented, resides in the here and now. This is hardly their fault. A recent study from the Stanford Center on Adolescence posits that “developing a beyond the self-intention” stands out as “an atypical adolescence experience.” When teenage thoughts roam, they move to the future. They anticipate carving their own paths. Forward, not back. The past holds little interest. It appears distant and old. What is a history teacher to do?

For ones in our area, the answer is simple. Enable students the tools to dig up all “of the history in our own back yards.” That suggestion comes from Ms. Anna Waverka, who graduated recently from West Chester University (WCU) with Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and in German. She also earned a Social Studies teaching certificate and now serves as a long-term substitute teacher in Unionville.

While at WCU, Waverka authored a unit plan entitled “Westtown: A Great Place to Live” utilizing From Farmland to Suburbia: Westtown Township by Arthur E. James, originally published by the Chester County Historical Society in 1973, and updated by the Westtown Historical Commission in 2020. According to Waverka, this history makes clear, “from William Penn’s respectful relationship with the Lenape people” to the Township’s “unique natural resources,” that “Westtown has a lot to offer!”

That includes compelling stories, as riveting as fiction. While researching her unit, Waverka discovered a story of love lost and found at Camp Elder, a Civil War Parole Camp established in Westtown after the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. One of the men held at the camp, Thomas Nolan, secured work at a local farm where he discovered that he knew the farmer’s wife. They dated one another years before in Ireland. After the farmer passed away a couple of years later, Nolan returned to court his old flame. They eventually married and lived out their lives in Westtown.

Waverka loves that story. She says, “it makes Westtown seem like a place where anything can happen!” Indeed, it does. And it is only one tale among many located in Waverka’s ten lesson plan unit. Others feature the Lenape, the Quakers, the African American Methodist Episcopal, and Bayard Rustin. One lesson introduces students to the American Greys, a group of volunteers dispatched to protect Philadelphia, PA after the British burned down Washington, DC during the War of 1812.

According to Mark Winfield, who teaches advanced placement students in American history at Rustin High School, these types of lessons provide context by “helping students see their community’s involvement in the growth of our nation.” In his own classroom, Winfield sends students on local history explorations that include “selfie scavenger hunts.” He also employs maps, overlaying past and present, right before their eyes. When students see how near they live to where the Battle of the Brandywine occurred, many of them are “blown away by how close to the action” they reside.

As Waverka points out, local history “helps our students connect personally with the topic.” This serves to “further enhance their learning in the classroom.” Likely too, it replaces that dreaded question, “Why do we need to know this?” with another one, “How can we learn more?” West Chester University history professor Brent Ruswick certainly thinks so. In spending “thousands of hours working with teachers in hundreds of classrooms across three states,” Ruswick observes that “the best lessons, the ones that really get students to learn more, are the local history lessons.”
Local history renders the past relevant and relatable. It shows, according to Ruswick, that “we are all important; that we all have our own stories, our own dramas, triumphs and failures.” It reveals that “our relatives and ancestors made history.” That suggests that each one of us might do the same. It is a powerful lesson, one that preserves the past while offering hope moving forward.

Amplifying that, Dr. Kristen G. Barnello, West Chester Area School District’s supervisor of the WC Cyber Program, Fine Arts & Social Studies, identifies that history is “such a personal discipline.” Knowing “who you are and where you come from,” she notes, empowers individuals to “learn from our past and strengthen our future.”

Westtown’s future, based on the strength of its past, is bright. In the present, for certain, “Westtown is a great place to live.” The potential of its history to inspire helps make that so. As do talented educators, ones so enthusiastic about our local past and its lessons, that students surely harbor no questions about the need to do their homework.

INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

Fascinated by the history of Westtown Township? Then consider volunteering on the Historical Commission. The HC meets on the third Thursday of each month. Applicants must be in good standing with all municipal bills. Residents interested in being considered for appointment should send a letter and brief resume to administration@westtown.org.

Simple Tips on Caring for Your Water Well

A number of residents in Westtown Township use a private water well system for drinking water. While well water eliminates the burden of paying for your water usage, private water systems should be monitored and maintained. The Water Systems Council recommends these tips:

- At a minimum, test your well water annually. Other reasons for testing include: a change in taste, color, or odor of your water, after drilling a new well, failure of a septic system, if someone in your home has a sudden, unexplained illness, before installing a treatment system, or after a flooding event.
- Test your water for bacteria, nitrates, lead, and arsenic. Contact the Chester Co. Health Dept. for a list of certified contractors.
- Regularly inspect your wellhead for damage to the casing or well cap, and contact a licensed contractor to repair any damage immediately to reduce the potential for contamination.
- Protect your well water supply. Store chemicals at least 100 feet from your well. Keep heavy equipment away from your well to avoid damage to buried water lines. Do not plant trees and shrubs around your well, as the roots can cause damage to the well casing. Have your septic tank pumped every 3 years.
- Set a maintenance schedule and keep good records of test results, maintenance, and repair.

For additional information and resources on well maintenance and technical concerns, contact the wellcare Hotline at 888-395-1033 or wellcarehotline.org.
Friends of Oakbourne News

By Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

In a previous Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) News article, I described an old euonymus vine that over many years had established itself by encircling the lower portion of Oakbourne Arboretum’s magnificent London Plane tree (the second largest tree of its kind in Pennsylvania!) located next to Oakbourne Mansion. In consulting with Longwood Gardens and Bartlett Tree experts, I received recommendations from both that the euonmyous vine should be removed for the continued health of the tree. In the fall of 2019, Rick Brown and I cut out 4 foot long sections of the lower stems of the vine with the intention of allowing the vine to slowly dessicate over a year or two so that it might easily be removed without damage to the tree. It’s been a little over a year and as you can see from the photo, the vine has indeed dried out and we intend to try removing the brittle remains in the spring.

During the coming year, FoO is hoping to design and plant a garden bed that will beautify the back entrance of Oakbourne Park’s water tower. The area is devoid of any interesting vegetation. A garden of various shrubs and perennials should significantly enhance the beauty of this neglected area of the water tower.

And finally, after the all of the hardships of this past year, here is a picture of what is to come this spring at Oakbourne to lift your spirits for what we all hope will be a much better year!

INTERESTED IN DONATING A PARK BENCH OR TREE?

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.
When did you know you wanted to go into law enforcement?
As a senior at East High School, I met a couple Officers at the West Goshen Township Police Department and became friends with them.

Can you give a brief timeline of your career progression?
In 1986, I attended the police academy at the Delaware County Police, and was first hired by Avondale Borough Police. In 1987, I started at WEGO PD in the Patrol Division, and started detective work in 1990. In 2000, I was promoted to Detective/Corporal, in 2002 Detective/Sergeant, and in 2012 I was promoted to Detective/Lieutenant.

Who would you say was your biggest influence in your career?
In high school I met (then) Detective Michael O’Brien of the West Goshen Police Dept., and he influenced me to consider attending the police academy. I was fortunate to do well in the academy, and to be hired by WEGO PD. Mike was hired by the FBI as a Special Agent, and I continued at the local law enforcement level. After Mike retired from the FBI, I was assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Task Force Officer in 2017.

What has law enforcement taught you the most?
Not to rush to judgment, and to keep an open mind.

How do you feel about retiring?
It’s a strange feeling thinking that what you have done for 33 years will come to an end. I will miss working for one of the best law enforcement agencies in the country.

What is your proudest accomplishments?
In 1987, we pulled a trapped motorist from his burning vehicle after failing several times to get inside the car. In 1991, we responded to an accident involving a child who was struck by a vehicle on Hummingbird Lane. Mike O’Brien and I arrived quickly and worked with EMS. The victim survived and we have been friends since. In 2000, I investigated a very violent armed robbery of the Genuardi’s in East Goshen. Several employees were held inside the store by armed, masked criminals. With the assistance of several agencies, we identified and arrested the individuals who committed the crime. The most violent offender was able to elude law enforcement for 14 years, but with the assistance of the FBI, we were ultimately able to apprehend William “Chew” Lewis in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Lewis was returned to Chester County, and a jury convicted him 15 years after the crime occurred.

What was your scariest moment?
The scariest moment for me was 9/11/2001, when three members of the WEGO PD traveled to New York City to assist with the terrorist attack. We were on the downed towers assisting with search attempts. It was dark. There were fires in different openings, and the beams were slick from the fire department spraying water. It was the darkest day of my career.

How have you coped with the many cases you have been on during your career?
I have coped by having activities outside of law enforcement. For several years, I worked with different NASCAR teams that allowed me to travel and work with great people. Spending time with my family was a big part of my successful career and surviving difficult investigations and arrests. Police work can be stressful, and you have to have a mechanism to clear your mind.

Do you have a mantra you live by?
“Performance, Not Promise.”

What are your plans after retirement?
I hope to remain in law enforcement working as a detective for a local department or agency. I’m also considering entering the corporate security world.

Is there anything else you would like to say to the community?
I would like to thank the residents and business owners in Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury Townships for the support given to the police department. We are lucky to live in a great part of the United States. This career has given me the opportunity to work with true professionals at the local, state, and federal level. The law enforcement network is powerful because of the cooperation among agencies. I would also like to thank the elected officials who have trusted me over the years to protect our citizens.

Westtown’s Board of Supervisors and staff wish to thank Bill for his years of service to our community and wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life!
What to Know When It Snows!

The Public Works Department strives to keep Township roads passable during winter weather events. Salting at the beginning of a winter storm keeps the snow and ice from bonding with the paved surface. Snow removal operations begin when snow has accumulated on the road surface, and continues for the duration of the storm. Please understand that we cannot address every road in the Township at once. The initial focus is to open and clear heavily travelled collector roads, and then move to low volume roads and developments. After the roads are initially cleared, the drivers will work on pushing snow back during the storm. Depending on the timing and duration of a storm, it may take up to six hours after the snow has stopped to clear the roads. After the final clearing of snow, salt is reapplied to help prevent re-freezing that may occur. To aid us in the safe and effective removal of snow and ice, do not park on the street during snow or ice storms.

The 90+ cul-de-sacs within the Township are the most challenging and time consuming areas to plow because the area where plowed snow can be placed is very limited due to the short distance between driveway openings, mailboxes, and stormwater drains. Cars parked in cul-de-sacs exacerbate the problem. Due to these constraints and safety issues, cul-de-sacs may not be plowed if cars are parked in them.

To avoid having your driveway plowed shut, leave the last 10 feet of your driveway un-shoveled until we are finished. Another method is to clear 15 feet of the shoulder to the left of your driveway (when facing the street). That will allow a snowplow blade full of snow to unload and deposit the snow before it reaches your driveway. Do not place shoveled, blown, or plowed snow from driveways or sidewalks onto public streets. If the snow falls on a trash collection day, place your receptacles back from the edge of the road. Do not put them in the street.

The Public Works Department would also 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. A sound post and securely attached mailbox 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 shown in the diagram.

Plow drivers are instructed to drive as slowly as realistically possible in order to minimize 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. The Township will not replace mailboxes damaged by snow coming off the plow.
Proper Use of Backup Generators During Power Outages

We have already experienced several winter storms, which caused power outages for some residents. During long-term power outages, many residents rely on portable generators for emergency power, but it’s estimated that only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. If installed and operated correctly, the use of standby or portable electric generators poses little danger, but improper installation or use can be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors, and utility crews trying to restore service. Incorrect generator use can lead to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, shock or electrocution, and fire. The Chester County Department of Emergency Services offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

Never use a portable generator indoors

- Never use a portable generator in a garage, carport, basement, crawl space, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home.
- If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air right away!
- Install home CO alarms that are battery-operated or have battery back-up. Test batteries frequently and replace when needed.

Using your generator outdoors

- Place it in a dry, outside location, away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.
- Generators should be at least 20’ from buildings. Even 20 feet away, air flow patterns could still blow carbon monoxide into homes through attic vents, windows, or doors, so it’s very important to have a working CO detector inside the home.
- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry. Do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure. Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

Use and store generator fuel safely

- Turn generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gas spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected area.
- If you spill fuel or do not seal its container properly, invisible vapors can travel along the ground and be ignited by an appliance’s pilot light or arcs from electric switches in the appliance.
- Use the type of fuel recommended in the generator instructions or on its label.

Connect your generator correctly

- Protect your appliances. Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical extension cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
- Never try to power house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as “back feeding.” It can lead to the electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer.
- The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.

Shut down your generator properly

- Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Maintain generator between uses. It’s important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It’s also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level, and fuel quality, and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Keep informed during an emergency at Chester County DES:

www.chesco.org/des
Important Dates

**FEBRUARY, 2021**
1, 16 – Board of Supervisors
3, 17 – Planning Commission
9 – Parks & Recreation
13 – Yard Waste Collection
15 – Office Closed
18 – Historical Commission
23 – Toll Bros/Crebilly CU Hearing #9

**MARCH, 2021**
1, 15 – Board of Supervisors
3, 17 – Planning Commission
7, 21 – Board of Supervisors
9 – Parks & Recreation
13 – Yard Waste Collection
18 – Historical Commission
23 – Toll Bros/Crebilly CU Hearing #10

**APRIL, 2021**
5, 19 – Board of Supervisors
7, 21 – Planning Commission
10 – Yard Waste Collection
13 – Parks & Recreation
15 – Historical Commission
15 – Friends of Oakbourne

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION** – 6:00 pm
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** – 7:30 pm
**PLANNING COMMISSION** – 7:30 pm
Township Municipal Building
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

**PARKS AND RECREATION** – 7:00 pm
Oakbourne Mansion
1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown

Due to the pandemic, Township meetings are being held virtually via Zoom. Meeting information is posted on the Township website. Meetings and events are subject to change.

Winter De-icing Tips

**Why should I limit the use of salt and other chemical de-icing products?**
De-icing products contain chemical constituents that can be harmful to the environment including water resources and drinking water supplies. For example, sodium can break down soil structure and decrease soil permeability, which adversely impacts vegetation and soil microbes; chloride mobilizes heavy metals and impacts fresh water supplies including ground and surface waters; and heavy metal components can adversely impact drinking water quality, plant, and aquatic life. Chemical ice melt products can also damage concrete, pavers, and flagstone.

**This winter, you can help by following these environmentally-friendly practices:**
- Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for de-icing chemicals.
- Shovel snow onto permeable surfaces including gently sloping and level landscape and grassy areas so as the snow melts, it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.

**If you must use de-icing chemicals, follow these suggestions...**
- Control application of chemical de-icers and avoid over application.
- Limit chemical applications near environmentally-sensitive areas including springs, streams, ponds, wetlands, and water supply areas and sensitive landscape and vegetation.
- Sand, cat litter, and sawdust can be used as an environmentally-friendly alternative to salt products. They will improve traction and prevent slipping, but will not aid in melting ice.
- Use salt substitutes that are less harmful, including Calcium Chloride (CaCl2) and Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA).
- For larger areas, apply salt as a brine solution to prevent drift off of paved surfaces.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residue to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams.
Many people are still operating under the misconception that recycling every possible scrap of paper, metal, plastic, and glass is the most environmentally sound practice. “Aspirational recycling” is severely limiting the marketability of material worldwide. Most notably, China is no longer accepting U.S. recyclables due to the high rate of contamination.

Here’s a guide for what NOT to put in the recycling bin:

• Anything with food waste in it - You don’t have to wash containers, but rinse to remove food scraps and residue.
• Plastic bags and film – These items get stuck in the processing machinery, resulting in expensive repairs and down time. Recycle CLEAN plastic bags, and plastic film packaging at the grocery store.
• Empty snack bags
• Greasy pizza boxes
• Used paper plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues, or diapers
• Paper cups (e.g. coffee cups, fast food drink cups) – The thin plastic lining that help prevent cups from leaking makes it difficult to process.
• Plastic straws, plastic utensils, or takeaway cup lids
• Shredded paper
• Styrofoam
• Scrap metal, hangers, aluminum siding, or metal cookware

If you want to do something positive for the planet by recycling, then do it right. When in doubt, throw it out!

**Household Waste Disposal**

Please follow these guidelines on the preparation and disposal of household waste and recyclables:

**TRASH**

Household trash must be securely contained in plastic bags or lidded receptacles. Construction debris, hazardous waste, and electronics are not accepted.

**RECYCLING**

Recyclable materials (glass, plastics #1-6, aluminum, steel, paper, and cardboard) must be in the recycle bin, or other clearly marked recycling container. Do not put recyclables in plastic bags. Rinse food debris and dispose of lids. Flatten cardboard boxes and place in the recycle bin or another cardboard box, or bundle with twine or string (do not use duct tape) and place beside the bin. Loose cardboard will not be collected.

**YARD WASTE**

Yard waste is collected on scheduled days. It must be in paper bags or containers that can be dumped. Branches no more than 3” in diameter and 3’ in length must be bundled & tied. Logs, stumps, rocks, dirt, and ashes will not be collected. Yard waste pick up dates are posted on the Township website. Pickup reminders are emailed to residents who subscribe to the Township listserv. The township strongly encourages residents to compost yard waste and mulch grass clippings.

**BULK ITEMS**

On the last pick up of each month, A.J. Blosenski will collect up to three bulk items per house. Holiday collection make-ups include bulk items. A mattress and/or box spring are accepted on bulk item day. Construction debris, TV’s, safes, and auto parts cannot be accepted for collection.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Visit http://www.chestercountyswa.org for hazardous waste collection events scheduled throughout the county.

**MEDICAL WASTE**

There is a medication return box at the Westtown East Goshen Police Dept. Additional information on the disposal of home healthcare waste is available on the Township website.

**ELECTRONIC WASTE**

TV’s, computer monitors, appliances, and other electronics may be disposed of at the Lanchester Landfill for FREE (7224 Division Highway, Narvon, PA). Residents may bring up to three items per day. Retailers and E-Waste collection events charge for TVs and computer monitors, so take advantage of this service.

**Recycle Right. When in Doubt, Throw it Out!**

Many people are still operating under the misconception that recycling every possible scrap of paper, metal, plastic, and glass is the most environmentally sound practice. “Aspirational recycling” is severely limiting the marketability of material worldwide. Most notably, China is no longer accepting U.S. recyclables due to the high rate of contamination.

Here’s a guide for what NOT to put in the recycling bin:

• Anything with food waste in it - You don’t have to wash containers, but rinse to remove food scraps and residue.
• Plastic bags and film – These items get stuck in the processing machinery, resulting in expensive repairs and down time. Recycle CLEAN plastic bags, and plastic film packaging at the grocery store.
• Empty snack bags
• Greasy pizza boxes
• Used paper plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues, or diapers
• Paper cups (e.g. coffee cups, fast food drink cups) – The thin plastic lining that help prevent cups from leaking makes it difficult to process.
• Plastic straws, plastic utensils, or takeaway cup lids
• Shredded paper
• Styrofoam
• Scrap metal, hangers, aluminum siding, or metal cookware

If you want to do something positive for the planet by recycling, then do it right. When in doubt, throw it out!
# Holiday Schedule

## Yard Waste Schedule

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### 2021 Holiday Collection Schedule:

In 2021, the only holidays that trash and recycling will not be collected are Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. Trash and recycling services on weeks with one of these holidays will be pushed forward one day throughout the week, beginning with the service scheduled for the holiday:

**Memorial Day:**
Monday, May 31 trash and recycling will be collected Tuesday, June 1 and Thursday collection will be Friday, June 4.

**Labor Day Monday:**
September 6 trash and recycling will be collected Tuesday, Sept 7 and Thursday collection will be Friday, Sept 10.

**Thanksgiving:**
Thursday, November 25 trash and recycling will be collected Friday, November 26.