

WEST GOSHEN



1025 Paoli Pike • West Chester, PA 19380
www.westgoshen.org

Fall 2008

Township Newsletter • Volume 18 No. 2

Officers Recognized for Heroism



West Goshen Supervisors Edward G. Meakim, Jr., Patricia B. McIlvaine, and Dr. Robert S. White recognized Sgt. Michael P. Carroll, Officer Wesley Holman, and Officer Joseph Virgilio at the October 22, 2008 public meeting.

At their October 22, 2008 meeting, the West Goshen Board of Supervisors recognized Sergeant Michael P. Carroll, and Officers Wesley Holman and Joseph Virgilio for their valiant service responding to an armed robbery at the Microtel Hotel On August 6, 2008. The officers, who were fired upon by the gunmen, were able to take one of the assailants into custody. The other gunman was fatally injured in the shootout. The hotel manager, who had been taken captive by the criminals, was left unharmed thanks to police efforts.

In presenting the West Goshen Township Medal of Valor to Officer Carroll and the West Goshen Township Distinguished Service Cross to Officers Holman and Virgilio, West

Goshen Police Chief Michael J. Carroll stated, "This is not beyond the call of duty. This is what we are prepared to do."

Supervisor Edward G. Meakim, Jr. emphasized that the officers' high degree of training prepared the officers for this dangerous situation.

District Attorney Joseph Carroll, who also attended the meeting, agreed. "Part of being an investigator, you have to recognize what is going on and you have to be well-prepared," he said. "What you do every day makes you a hero."

For more information about the West Goshen Police Department, see "Part of our Community" on page 8. ★

West Goshen Township Moves to Automated Trash Collection

West Goshen Township has transitioned to an automated trash collection system.

New trash collection trucks began servicing the Township last month. The new trucks have only one driver to empty residential trash containers, providing a safer trash collection system. The trucks have mechanical arms to lift trash containers and empty their contents into the trucks. Trash collection will take only twelve seconds per household, making the new collection process more efficient.

West Goshen residents received 96 gallon trash containers in October. Garbage will not be accepted from any other containers. To make these trash receptacles available for the automated trucks, Township residents must place containers on the street with the wheels against the curb, and handle and wheels facing away from the street, at least three feet from any other trash containers and four feet from any other obstructions such as mailboxes, cars, or other vehicles.



To prevent garbage spillage, the containers must not be overfilled and the lids must be closed. This also helps eliminate odors and pest problems. Bagging all garbage also helps eliminate container odor. Do not place items on top of, next to, or outside the container. If you do, the automated truck will NOT be able to pick up any of your trash. All items must be inside the container for collection.

The trash container shall remain with the property in the event of change of homeownership, and may not be removed for any reason. ★

See complete trash and recycling guide on page 5.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The following plans have been approved for development:

Weigand: One North Five Points Road – The land development proposes an 871 square foot addition to a commercial structure for use as a

chiropractic office, which would then total 2,424 square feet. Existing access will be utilized, including driveways on both West Chester Pike and North Five Points Road. The site is zoned C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District.

Citadel Federal Credit Union – The plan depicts a 19,905 square foot credit union and office building for Citadel Federal Credit Union located at 1209 West Chester Pike. This site is the previous location of the Ground Round restaurant.

Schramm, Inc. – A&B Building Amended Land Development – The plan depicts a 3,200 square foot land development for two storage/warehouse buildings located at 800 East Virginia Avenue.

Spaz Beverage – The land development will combine two non-conforming lots to develop the property with a 4,000 square foot beverage distribution center. The site is the previous location of Dougherty's TV and the neighboring residence at 2 Richfield Avenue. The property is zoned C-3 Limited Highway Commercial.

township information

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6 year elected term

Patricia B. McIlvaine, *Chairman*
Edward G. Meakim, Jr., *Vice-Chairman*
Dr. Robert S. White, *Member*

ADMINISTRATION

Casey LaLonde, *Township Manager*
Jeanne M. Denham, *Finance Director*
Richard J. Craig, *Township Engineer*

WEST GOSHEN POLICE

1025 Paoli Pike, W.C., 19380
Police 911 or 610.696.7400
Fax 610.696.3935
police@westgoshen.org
Michael J. Carroll, *Chief of Police*

SEWER TREATMENT PLANT

848 S. Concord Rd., W.C., 19382
610.696.0900
Fax 610.429.9360
John M. Scott, *Sewer Plant Manager*

PARK & RECREATION BOARD

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Gerald L. Napiecek, *Vice-Chairman*
Edward T. Smith, *Secretary*
Robert M. Cifone
Kenneth W. Lehr
Michael A. Pillagalli
Nancy Pine
Kent Wise
Megan Zug
Leslie K. Bair, *Alternate*
Jennifer Dobbins, *Alternate*

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Paul D. Spiegel, *Vice-Chairman*
Monica Drewniani
Robert Holland
Jeffrey Laudenslager
Carrie Martin
Michael P. McKie
James J. O'Brien
Salvatore Triolo

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Joseph DeFelippes, *Vice-Chairman*
Grant K. Middlestead, *Member*
Scott T. Cullinan, *Alternate*

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Michael T. Arnold, *Vice-Chairman*
Theresa Davis, *Secretary*
John L. Windle, *Treasurer*
Lewis H. Reid, *Member*
Frank J. Biasi, *Member*
Kenneth W. Fuller, *Member*
Kevin M. Snoke, *Alternate*
Paul D. Spiegel, *Alternate*

THE FRIENDS OF WEST GOSHEN PARKS, INC.

Non-profit group assisting the Park and Recreation Board; meets bimonthly
Lee McFadden, *President*
Ryan Kelly, *Vice-President*
(Vacant), *Secretary*
Jennifer Dobbins, *Treasurer*

AUDITORS

Hugh J. Purnell, Jr., *Chairman*
Louis J. Mayer, *Secretary*
William Gale, *Member*

TAX COLLECTOR

William R. Keenan

TOWNSHIP PARKS

Barker Park
Falcon Lane by Westtown Way
Coopersmith Park
Spring Lane, off West Chester Pike
Hallowell Park
404 North Five Points Road
Lambert Park
1145 Pottstown Pike
West Goshen Community Park
Fern Hill & North Five Points Roads

The following plans are currently in the review process:

Goshen Leisure Development II - The proposed plan reflects 164,150 square feet of flex office and warehouse buildings to be located at 21 Hagerty Boulevard.

Howard Business Park – Parking Lot Expansion – The plan proposed is to increase the current parking lot by 99 spaces. The lot is located at 315-317 Westtown Road.

Ordinance Changes

On July 23, 2008, Ordinance 06-2008 was approved which amended the West Goshen Township Code by revising the definition of "Athletic Club" in Section 84-8 to allow a Physical Therapy Facility as an accessory use and adding a definition of "Physical Therapy Facility."★

Conserve Water in Your Home

Did you know that the average household uses approximately 280 gallons of water each day? The AWWA Research Foundation estimates the water usage for the average household can be broken down accordingly:

Toilets: 75 gallons (26.7%)—Each flush can waste up to five gallons of water. Consider replacing older models with low-flow toilets.

Clothes Washers: 61 gallons (21.7%)—Use only full loads.

Showers: 47 gallons (16.8%)—Install low-flow aerators and shower heads.

Faucets: 44 gallons (15.7%)—Compost table scraps instead of using a garbage disposal. Wash dishes or vegetables in a dishpan instead of a running sink. Insulate hot water pipes to reduce the amount of water which must be run before water gets hot. Turn off the water when shaving or brushing teeth.

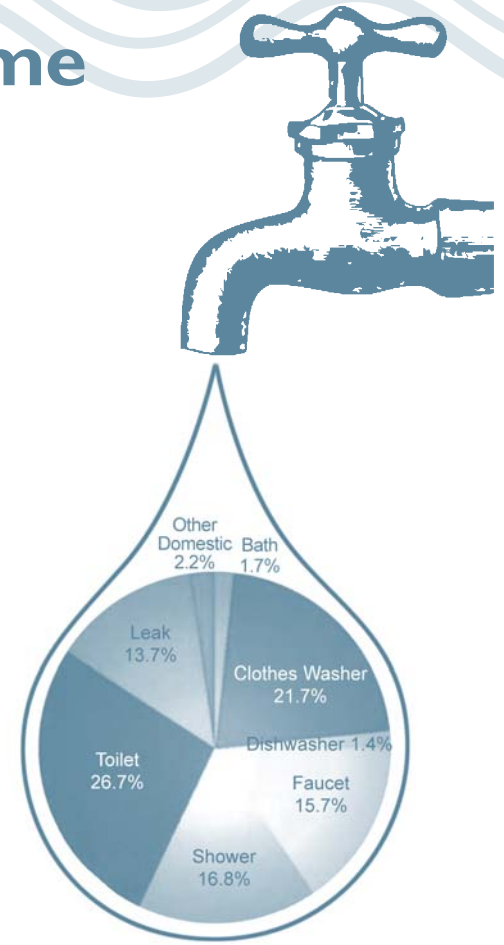
Leaks: 38 gallons (13.7%)—Repair leaking faucets. Even the smallest drip can waste 20 gallons per day. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. Use a leak detector tablet in the toilet tank to determine if you have a leak. Don't forget to turn off feeds to outside water sources to prevent pipes from freezing.

Baths: 5 gallons (1.7%)

Dishwashers: 4 gallons (1.4%)—Use only full loads.

Other Domestic Usage: 6 gallons (2.2%)—Water gardens less frequently and only in the early morning using soaker hoses. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. Cover outdoor pools when not in use.

Information for this article was compiled by the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, with source material gathered from Chester County Water Resources Authority, Aqua America, and AWWA Research Foundation. ★



KEEP YOUR SIDEWALK SAFE

In accordance with Township Ordinance No. 2007-10, home and business owners (or their tenants) with sidewalks on their properties must keep the sidewalk free and clear of all obstructions, including the accumulation of snow and ice, to provide safe and convenient pedestrian

passage. Property owners must cut back bushes or trees that cover the sidewalk. Occupants of any facility with a sidewalk must shovel and, if needed, salt the sidewalk to ensure safe passage for any pedestrians within 48 hours after the end of a snowfall. According to Section

70-10 of the West Goshen Township Code, an owner, occupant, or tenant who does not maintain a sidewalk for safe passage may incur a fine of up to \$1,000 per day of violation. ★

Public Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors (4:00 PM, second and fourth Wednesday of each month, except when otherwise noted): November 12; December 10; January 14 and 28. Annual Organization Meeting—Monday, January 5.

Park and Recreation Board (7:00 PM, third Wednesday of each month except December): November 19; January 21.

Planning Commission (7:00 PM third Tuesday of each month): November 18; December 16; January 20.

Sewer Authority (7:30 PM, second Wednesday of each month): November 12; December 10; January 14.

Zoning Hearing Board (7:00 PM, Thursday after first Board of Supervisors' Meeting each month, unless otherwise advertised): November 13; December 11; January 15.

All meetings are held in the Township Administration building except the Sewer Authority, which is conducted at the Sewer Treatment Plant at 848 South Concord Road. There is a public comment period at each meeting. Additional Zoning Hearing Board Meetings may be added as needed. Check www.westgoshen.org for updates.



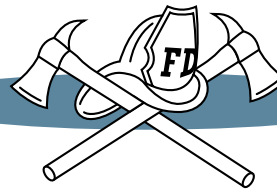
ROONIE SAYS...

Like most people, most dogs like to interact with each other. However, just like people, dogs can have dangerous interactions with other dogs. Please obey the following rules prior to bringing your dog to a public setting with other dogs, such as Rooney's Canine Corner:

- Make sure your dog is vaccinated against all major illnesses.
- Do not expose your dog to other dogs if he or she is sick or suffering with parasites.
- Refrain from bringing puppies under four months old to the dogpark or any other setting where they will be exposed to a large number of older dogs.
- Do not bring your dog to the dogpark if she is in heat, or if he is sexually aggressive.
- Keep your dog within view and voice command at all times in public.

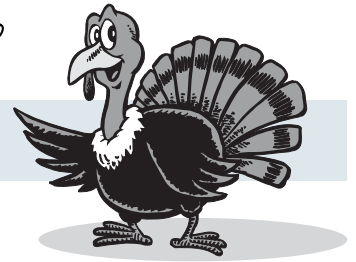
Remember: The best way to make your dog happy is to keep him healthy and safe.

Roonie, the West Goshen Township Westie and namesake of Rooney's Canine Corner at Robert E. Lambert Park, offers advice for dog owners and users of the dogpark in each issue of the Township Newsletter. ★



Safety Tips by Fire Marshal Andrea Testa

TURKEY FRYERS!



Turkey fryers have increased in popularity over the past few years, especially during this time of the year. While some people rave about the taste of deep fried turkeys, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.'s (UL) safety experts are concerned that backyard chefs may be sacrificing safety for good taste.

"We're worried by the increasing reports of fires related with turkey fryer use," says John Drengenberg, UL consumer affairs manager. "Based on our test findings, the fryers used to produce those great-tasting birds are not worth the risks. And, as a result of these tests, UL has decided not to certify any turkey fryers with our trusted UL Mark."

Turkey fryers can present the following hazards:

- Many units easily tip over, spilling the hot oil within the cooking pot.
- If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. Oil may hit the burner/flames causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.
- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spillover effect. This too, may result in an extensive fire.
- With no thermostat controls, the units also have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.
- The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, here are some tips for safer use:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.
- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.

- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot, hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water don't mix, and water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.

The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing and to allow approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of bird thawed in the refrigerator.

Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Remember to use your best judgment when attempting to fight a fire. If the fire is manageable, use an all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call 9-1-1 for help.

Information for this article was reprinted with permission from Underwriters Laboratories. To view a 13 Mb video of the potential dangers posed by turkey fryers, visit www.ul.com/turkeyfryers/fryer.mpg ★

NEW Procedures for Residential Trash and Recycling Pickup

West Goshen Township now has new procedures for residential waste and recycling collection. Please make sure you are familiar with these procedures.

Residential establishments with four or more units and commercial, municipal, and institutional establishments shall continue to individually contract at their sole cost and expense for the collection of waste and recyclables with any collector/hauler licensed by West Goshen Township.

Residential Trash and Recycling Service

TRASH (Mondays/Thursdays):

Place Township-provided 96 gallon container at curbside before 6:00 AM or the night before. Trash will not be picked up if it is put out after the truck has arrived.

RECYCLABLES (Mondays):

There is no maximum limit.

The following items are recyclable:

- Cans, including aluminum, steel or tin
- Bottles and jars, including clear, brown, or green glass
- Plastics, #1 through #7
- Flattened boxes, including cereal boxes, corrugated cardboard, and other cardboard boxes
- Paper, including junk mail, telephone books, catalogs, white paper, wrapping paper, magazines, and newspapers

All items must be placed in a West Goshen Township plastic recycling bucket or a trash can with a Township recycling sticker affixed to it. Recycling stickers are free and may be obtained from the Township. If you have moved into new construction, you may obtain a recycling bucket at no cost at the Township Administration Building. Twenty gallon recycling buckets are available for purchase (\$10 each) at the Township Administration Building. Mark each bucket with your street and house number. Place at curbside before 6:00 AM or the night before.

The following items are NOT recyclable:

- Tissues, paper towels, and napkins
- Food wrappers

- Wax or plastic coated boxes
- Tyvek envelopes
- Metallic wrapping paper
- Light bulbs
- Plate glass, window glass, drinking glasses, or mirrors
- Crystal
- Ceramics
- Aerosol paint cans
- Ovenware
- Plastics without identifying recycling numbers
- Oil cans or bottles (*Note: Motor oil containers must be disposed of with household hazardous waste.*)

BULK TRASH (Thursdays):

A maximum of one bulk item will be collected per week. A bulk item is an object which two people can lift. Refrigerators, air conditioners, and other cooling units must be tagged that freon has been removed. No building materials, railroad ties, automotive parts, or tires will be picked up. A maximum of four carpet rolls, each no longer than four feet in length, will be collected. If unsure whether or not your bulk trash item will be collected, call Allied Waste Service at 610-869-2222.

NO TRASH SERVICE:

If a collection day for regular trash, recycling, or bulk pickup falls on a holiday, collection will occur on **the very next day**. If the holiday falls on a Monday, the second pickup that week will also be postponed to the following Friday. Midweek holidays may affect the regularly scheduled Thursday trash collection.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS:

The following materials may be taken to Household Hazardous Waste dropoff sites:

PAINT PRODUCTS

Oil-Based Paints
Turpentine/Thinners
Stain/Varnish/Shellac
Strippers/Removers
Adhesives/Solvents

OTHER

Acids/Caustics/Solvents
Flammables/Oxidizers
Lead/Mercury
Pesticides
Organic Peroxide
Reactive Metals
Gas Cylinders max. 20#s

OUTDOOR

Pool Chemicals
Weed Killers
Septic Tank Degreasers
Asphalt Sealers
Caulking Compounds
Joint Compounds
Roof Cements

AUTOMOTIVE

Grease/Rust Solvents
Fuel Additives
Carburetor Cleaners
Transmission/Brake Fluid
Antifreeze
Gasoline

HOUSEHOLD

Drain Openers
Rug/Wood/Metal Cleaners
Mothballs/Flakes
Spot Remover
Household Batteries
Kerosene
Smoke Alarms
Toilet Bowl Cleaners
Adhesives/Solvents

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

Infectious/Medical Waste
Explosives/Ammunition
Dioxin
Latex/Water Based Paints
Pressurized CFAs & HCFSs
Commercial/Industrial Waste
Radioactive Waste
Unidentified Waste
Appliances
*Tires
*Car Batteries
*Used Motor Oil

*Call 610-273-3771, ext. 228 for recycling locations for automotive related materials.

Check back in the Spring 2009 issue of the West Goshen Township Newsletter or visit www.chestercountywa.org/pdf/LHSchedule.pdf for 2009 household hazardous waste dropoff dates and locations. ★



Institutional Recycling Requirements in West Goshen Township



Recycling is required by:

- Students/staff of both public and private primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools
- Residents of hospitals, dormitories, and nursing homes
- Employees of institutions, public agencies, commercial entities, and industry
- Owners of restaurants, shopping centers, stores, office buildings, and factories
- Persons living in single family homes, condominiums, townhouses, or apartments

- Multi-unit residences: apartment buildings with four or more units and condominium associations

Each owner, operator, or administrator of one of the above mentioned categories is required to provide to each occupant, employee, patron, or resident written material describing its recycling program. Written instructions should clearly describe what materials are to be recycled, how the materials are to be prepared, and how the collection system works. The owner, operator, or administrator must provide for collection of the recyclable materials at least once per month.

The recycling containers must be easily accessible and suitable for the type of material that is being collected. Educational facilities must provide for separation and collection of recyclable materials in classrooms, administrative offices, cafeterias, and dormitories.

- Computer paper and white bond/copier/letterhead paper
- Corrugated paper
- Aluminum, steel, and bimetallic cans

If you rent, talk to your building manager about any recycling questions.

Multi-unit Residences (apartment buildings and condominiums) must provide for the separation of and recycling of at least four of the following materials:

- Clear and colored glass
- Aluminum, steel, and bimetallic cans
- #1 and #2 plastics
- Mixed paper including newspaper, junk mail, telephone books, catalogs, white paper, magazines, flattened boxes which do not come in direct contact with food, and non-corrugated cardboard.

Check with your apartment complex or condominium association to determine which materials to recycle.

For more information on the recycling requirements, contact 610-696-5266, ext. 4304 or twp@westgoshen.org ★



Recycling programs are required for:

- Commercial Properties: stores, markets, office buildings, restaurants, and shopping centers
- Industrial Properties: factories, foundries, processing plants, and warehouses
- Institutions: hospitals, nursing homes, private and public schools and universities
- Public agencies: government agencies, authorities and councils



Materials to Be Recycled

Commercial, municipal, and institutional establishments must provide, at a minimum, for the separation and recycling of the following materials:

West Goshen Township Now Provides Two Options to Get Rid of that Christmas Tree



Beginning this holiday season, West Goshen Township will begin curbside pickup of Christmas trees. Township residents can place their trees at the curb for removal on Saturday, January 24, 2009. No other trash or yard waste will be accepted at this special collection.

Township residents may still opt to take their Christmas trees to the West Goshen Municipal Complex to be chipped between December 26, 2008 and January 20, 2009.

For either form of disposal, trees must have all tinsel, decorations, and plastic bags removed. Wreaths will not be accepted.

Curbside collection and Christmas tree dropoff at the West Goshen Municipal Complex are services offered exclusively to residents of West Goshen Township. Commercial haulers will not be permitted to drop off trees. Anyone caught illegally dumping at the West Goshen Municipal Complex may face a fine or criminal prosecution. ★

Water Walking Returns

The popular water walking program for seniors, conducted at the ACAC Fitness and Wellness Center on McDermott Drive near Greenhill Road, returns for winter and spring sessions. Get fit, make friends, and enjoy the therapeutic properties of a heated pool as you learn exercises designed to take advantage of the low-impact resistance of water.

Water walking sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:00 and 1:45 PM. Cost for each series of eight sessions is \$25. Registration is limited to residents of West Goshen Township. Because of limited space, individuals may not sign up for more than three months of winter/spring sessions.

January Sessions

Tuesday, January 6th	Thursday, January 8th
Tuesday, January 13th	Thursday, January 15th
Tuesday, January 20th	Thursday, January 22nd
Tuesday, January 27th	Thursday, January 29th

February Sessions

Tuesday, February 3rd	Thursday, February 5th
Tuesday, February 10th	Thursday, February 12th
Tuesday, February 17th	Thursday, February 19th
Tuesday, February 24th	Thursday, February 26th

March Sessions

Tuesday, March 3rd	Thursday, March 5th
Tuesday, March 10th	Thursday, March 12th
Tuesday, March 17th	Thursday, March 19th
Tuesday, March 24th	Thursday, March 26th

April Sessions

Tuesday, April 7th	Thursday, April 9th
Tuesday, April 14th	Thursday, April 16th
Tuesday, April 21st	Thursday, April 23rd
Tuesday, April 28th	Thursday, April 30th

May Sessions

Tuesday, May 5th	Thursday, May 7th
Tuesday, May 12th	Thursday, May 14th
Tuesday, May 19th	Thursday, May 21st
Tuesday, May 26th	Thursday, May 28th ★

Register Now to Join in the Holiday Fun

Don't miss your chance to participate in two of the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department's most popular traditions!

At the **Annual Holiday Decorations Workshop** at the West Goshen Township Administration Building, participants can decorate their own wreaths and centerpieces to take home. We provide the wreaths, greens, decorations, craft supplies, and expert assistance. Choose to come on Tuesday, December 9th, Wednesday, December 10th or Thursday, December 11th between 7:00 and 8:00 PM. Wreaths cost \$15 each, and centerpieces are \$10 each.

Holiday Decorations Workshop: Now choose from three dates!

At the **Holiday Breakfast**, West Goshen families can enjoy a morning buffet at the Stadium Grille, children can decorate their own gingerbread men, and everyone can spend some quality time with Santa himself. This event does fill up quickly so register early! Because of this event's popularity, registration is limited to West Goshen residents on Saturday, December 20th or Sunday, December 21st. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 until 10:30 each morning. The cost is \$10 per person.

Preregistration is required for each of these events. For more information or registration forms, visit www.westgoshen.org/Departments/Events/events.html, or contact the Park and Recreation Department at 610-696-5266 or via email at klehr@westgoshen.org.

For those still looking for other ways to get into the holiday spirit, a limited number of seats remain for the Monday, December 1st trip to Radio City Music Hall, and the Saturday, December 13th trip to New York City. Information for each of these trips is available at the West Goshen Township website: www.westgoshen.org ★

Join the Chester Creek Earth Day Cleanup

West Goshen Township is proud to team up with the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association for the 4th Annual Chester Creek Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9:00 until 11:00 AM. Volunteers and team leaders are needed and should contact the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association at 610-892-8731 or via email at info@crcwatersheds.org to register or to help plan the event. ★

“Part of Our Community” highlights local businesses, organizations, and people who make a difference in the community. In 2008, the West Goshen Township Newsletter highlights the Township’s emergency service providers. To submit ideas for future columns, please email Newsletter Editor Ken Lehr at klehr@westgoshen.org.



Part of Our Community

In the pre-dawn morning of August 6, 2008, the night manager of the Microtel Hotel at Route 202 and Matlack Street was forcibly robbed by two armed men. However, before he was restrained by the invaders, he was able to dial 911. West Goshen Police officers Michael P. Carroll, Wesley Holman, and Joseph Virgilio responded and were fired upon by the assailants. As the officers continued pursuit, the two criminals again fired upon the police. One of the officers returned fired, mortally wounding one of the gunmen. The other gunman was taken into custody. The night manager was unharmed.



Above: West Goshen Police Department in 1963 ...

and the West Goshen Police Department in 2000 (right)



The 27 uniformed officers of the West Goshen Police Department train for all types of emergencies and are prepared to put themselves in harm’s way. Although events like the August 6th gunfight are fortunately rare, members of the West Goshen Police Department are ready to help protect the community any way they can.

“It may sound corny,” says Police Captain Joseph Gleason, “but most cops enter the force out of a sense of community service. They want to do their part to ensure safety and welfare of the public.”

The West Goshen Police Department has been doing their part to ensure the safety and welfare of Township residents since the 1940’s. The Township’s first Police Chief, Edwin D. Fox, patrolled the Township himself as a department of one, operating out of the house of Township Administrative Officer D. Francis Hallowell until the Police Department moved into its own building on Montgomery Avenue. In 1961, the police moved into the West Goshen Township Building at Paoli Pike and North Five Points Road. The current Municipal Complex, which opened in 1999, has a dedicated police building, complete with crime labs, interview rooms, holding facilities, training areas, and a fitness center.

Gordon Smith, who served on the West Goshen Police Department from 1966 through 1997, reflected on the growth of the Police Department and West Goshen Township.

“When I started in 1966, there was just one traffic light in West Goshen Township at the current location of Phoenixville Pike and Route 322,” Smith pointed out.

Now, according to Captain Gleason, traffic safety represents the bulk of the calls handled by the West Goshen Police Department, with property crimes (theft, vandalism, etc.) ranking second in terms of numbers of calls.

“We have the best traffic safety unit available in the County,” claims Gleason.

Still, the West Goshen Police Department must also occasionally deal with the high profile cases such as the capture of a serial rapist in 1986, the solving of a double homicide in 1989, and the case of an abduction, robbery, and murder in 1991. In each of these cases, the Police Department, through the diligent efforts of its officers, brought the criminal offenders to justice and off the streets.

Police Chief Michael J. Carroll oversees the operations of the West

Goshen Police Department, with the assistance of Captain Gleason. Six sergeants report to them. Each sergeant heads a platoon with three additional officers. Two of the platoons are dedicated to special functions: the criminal investigation unit, and the traffic safety unit. Additionally, the West Goshen Police Department has additional power unit officers to assist patrols. The platoons are assigned to shifts providing the Township with round-the-clock police coverage.

The West Goshen Police Department emphasizes safety to its officers. When in uniform, each officer must equip himself with department-issued handcuffs, service gun, taser, baton, two-way radio, and bullet-proof vest. All officers must wear or carry their badge while in uniform.

The Department supplies each police vehicle with an onboard computer for instant vehicle and driver checks, a mobile video recording unit, an automated external defibrillator, and emergency entry equipment. While the latter piece of equipment may be used to enter buildings harboring suspects, police officers are more likely to use it performing personal safety checks on endangered elderly or infirmed persons who are not able to answer the door.

Individual officers receive training throughout the year. Topics covered include street survival and safety, leadership, cultural diversity, and use of force. All officers are certified in first aid, CPR, and automatic external defibrillator use. Each officer is weapons trained, and updates those skills at the Police Department's firing range on South Concord Road.

The training room of the Police Building allows officers to attend some of the top level training programs available from organizations such as the Southern Police Institute, the Chester County Chiefs of Police, and



Penn State University. Additionally, nine current and past West Goshen police officers have completed the highly competitive FBI National Academy ten-week program in Quantico, Virginia. The National Academy challenges officers in areas of academics, leadership, and physical fitness.

Despite all their training, the Police Department would not be able keep the community safe without cooperation from the public. An active, observant citizenry is the greatest weapon the police department has when fighting crime. "There's a whole lot more eyes and brains out there than alarm systems," explains Captain Gleason. "Sometimes people think they see things that may not be important to a police investigation. Sometimes people don't call because they think they're bothering us. That's why we're here. I'd rather receive 100 calls that don't lead to anything than miss information from one person who doesn't call."

Officers develop a sense of camaraderie through their service together. "My wife would say 'You're not going to work; you're going to play with your friends,'" said retired Officer Smith. "The West Goshen Police Department was the best place in the world to work."

Captain Gleason concurs. "We take care of our people, so they can take care of the public they serve," he said, adding, "There isn't one guy in this department I would trade for anybody." ★

ROAD RULES

In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code that may inform readers on the requirements of these sections and the penalties for violating these sections.

As we approach the seasons of shorter periods of daylight and volatile weather conditions, the West Goshen Police Department would like to emphasize an important concept when driving...LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY!!!

Section 4302 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code enumerates that drivers must use headlights under any of the following conditions:

- **Between sunset and sunrise.**
- **Any time when the operator cannot discern a person or vehicle upon the highway from a distance of 1,000 feet due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, smoke or smog.**
- **Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture, including rain, snow, sleet or mist.**

Section 4309 also mandates that "Head lamps shall be lighted on every vehicle driving through a signed work zone."

Besides the obvious dangers presented from driving without headlights under any of these conditions, drivers risk facing a fine for violation of Section 4302 or 4309.

Drive carefully, make sure your headlights are turned on when required, and remember to buckle up every time. ★

WEST GOSHEN



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TOWNSHIP HOLIDAYS

Township offices will be closed on the following Thursdays: **November 27th, December 25th, and January 1st.** Trash and recyclables will be picked up on the regularly scheduled **Monday** of each week. Trash and bulk items will be collected on the **Friday** of each of those weeks.

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NEW TOWNSHIP OPERATING HOURS

West Goshen Township has moved to a four-day business week. Administrative offices will be open Mondays through Thursdays, 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

The Public Works Department, which oversees maintenance of Township roads and parks, has also shifted to a Monday through Thursday work schedule. Road and parks crews will be available as needed for plowing, emergency road repairs, park events, or other needed services when necessary.

“The change in hours is mostly related to energy savings,” explains Township Manager Casey LaLonde. “We can save on air conditioning and heating, and have Township vehicles on the road four days instead of five days.”

“We will monitor our electricity and gas bills and be able to determine our savings,” said LaLonde.

Casey LaLonde also pointed out that the new Township business hours will allow residents greater flexibility to take care of transactions with the Township before going to work.

The Township Wastewater Treatment Plant will continue to maintain Monday through Friday business hours, with continuous coverage.

The new business hours will not apply to the West Goshen Police Department. Non-uniformed staff at the Police Department will still handle administrative functions Mondays through Fridays. Shifts of uniformed officers will continue to offer round-the-clock coverage of West Goshen Township. ★