

# WEST GOSHEN



Township Newsletter • Volume 19 No. 1

## Trash and Sewer Fees to Increase

Due to increased costs, the West Goshen Township Board of Supervisors has increased sewage and trash rates from \$100 to \$150 per quarter effective with the third quarter 2009 billing cycle. This represents quarterly fees of \$85 for trash and \$65 for sewage. The last time sewage and trash rates were increased was in 2001.

The Township faces significant increases in trash disposal costs due to conditions outside of the Township's control. Through a contract with Allied Waste/ Republic, all Township trash is collected and disposed of at the Lanchester Landfill in Narvon, Pennsylvania, operated by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority. The Township disposes of 10,000 tons of trash per year. In 1997, the Township was charged \$43 per ton by the Solid Waste Authority. In 2009, the Authority charges \$55 per ton. This is a significant cost increase over time.

In addition, beginning in 2010 West Goshen has been ordered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to divert more yard waste from trash collection, specifically to provide monthly yard waste collection. The Township historically has provided six yard and leaf waste collections annually, plus Christmas tree collections. Because of this new mandate, the Township had to renegotiate the recently awarded contract with Allied Waste to include the new yard and leaf waste collections at an increased cost.

The Township also faces significant increases in sewage treatment expenses and operating costs. The Township's Sewer Authority operates one of the most efficient and cost effective sewage treatment plants in the region. However, due to increased treatment expenses, the sewage treatment plant has operated at a deficit for the last four years. Including the enacted fee increase, West Goshen Township still provides one of the lowest residential sewage treatment fees in Chester County. Below is a chart showing some of West Goshen's neighboring municipalities' quarterly residential sewage treatment fees. ★



West Goshen Township still provides one of the lowest residential sewage treatment fees in Chester County.

Residential Sewage Rates		
	2009 Quarterly Rate	Annual Rate
Easttown Township	\$ 191	\$ 764
Westtown Township	\$ 166	\$ 664
East Goshen	\$ 146	\$ 584
West Chester Borough	\$ 146	\$ 584
Willistown Township	\$ 116	\$ 464
East Marlborough Township	\$ 115	\$ 460
North Coventry Township	\$ 110	\$ 440
Caln Township	\$ 81	\$ 324
East Whiteland Township	\$ 80	\$ 320
West Pikeland Township	\$ 75	\$ 300
<b>West Goshen Township</b>	<b>\$ 65</b>	<b>\$ 260</b>
West Whiteland Township	\$ 51	\$ 204
East Caln Township	\$ 45	\$ 180
Phoenixville Borough	\$ 33	\$ 132

# Subdivision and Land Development Report

*The following plans have been approved for development:*

**QVC Studio Park** – The land development plan constitutes 62,930 square feet of new offices and warehouse building additions located at 1200 Wilson Drive.

*The following plans are new submissions for consideration:*

**West Goshen Sewer Authority** – Land development plan for a 4,242 square foot garage located at 848 South Concord Road.

**West Chester University** – Land development plan for construction of a 9,135 square foot addition to E.O. Bull Center located at 2 East Rosedale Avenue.

**Roslyn Swim Club** – Land development proposing to convert the existing 1,200 square foot roofed deck into a locker room/bath house facility, construct a new 1,200 square foot roofed deck, install sidewalk access to the new facilities, including a handicap accessible sidewalk to further enhance and make more useable the existing facility.

*The following plans remain under review:*

**Liberty Tool** – Land development plan for a 26,000 square foot industrial supply warehouse facility with associated parking and stormwater management facilities, located at 1005 Saunders Lane.

**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.

**Chester County Hospital: West Pavilion** – The land development proposes a 71,715 square foot hospital addition for the Chester County Hospital located at 701 East Marshall Street.

**415 Goshen Road Subdivision** – The proposed plan will subdivide the property located at 415 Goshen Road into five single family lots.

**The Woodlands at Greystone** – The submitted plan proposes for the development of 598 dwelling units pursuant to the Flexible Design Conservation District regulations for a 446+ acre property located along

## 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*  
Raymond H. Halvorsen,  
*Public Works 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

Mary Lou Enoches, *Chairman*  
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*

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeffrey Laudenslager, *Chairman*  
(Vacant), *Vice-Chairman*  
Monica Drewniansy  
Robert Holland  
Carrie Martin  
Michael P. McKie  
James J. O'Brien  
Salvatore Triolo

### ZONING HEARING BOARD

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

### SEWER AUTHORITY

Walter E. Hoover, Jr., *Chairman*  
Michael T. Arnold, *Vice-Chairman*  
Theresa Davis, *Secretary*  
John L. Windle, *Treasurer*  
Frank J. Biasi, *Member*

Kenneth W. Fuller, *Member*  
Kevin M. Snoko, *Alternate*  
Paul D. Spiegel, *Alternate*

### THE FRIENDS OF WEST GOSHEN PARKS, INC.

*Non-profit group assisting the Park and Recreation Board; meets quarterly*  
Lee McFadden, *President*  
John Herley, *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*

Pottstown Pike, Phoenixville Pike, and the Route 322 Bypass (commonly referred to as the Jerrehian tract).

**Greystone South** – The proposed plan concerns a 25 lot residential subdivision located on the west side of Penn Drive, just north of the Route 322 bypass.

**Greenhill Corporate Park: Unit 11** – Land development plan for a 34,480 square foot office building located at 1171 McDermott Drive.

**R E Michael** – Land development for property located at 322 Westtown Road which proposes to demolish the existing 6,493 square foot building and associated parking and driveway, and construct a new 14,542 square foot building with associated parking and driveway.

**Hickman Land Development** – Land development for property located at 352 Snyder Avenue which proposes to add a roof to a 2,048 square foot partially completed garage, and construct an additional 3,200 square foot garage. Both garages are to be used for the storage of vehicles for septic cleaning business.

**Dash Enterprises** – A land development which proposes to combine two lots into one for use as an auto storage lot with a 2,400 square foot reconstructed building to be used for auto preparation prior to sale. The property is located at 716 East Union Street.

**Kirkland Woods** – The plan proposes the subdivision of property located at 300 Kirkland Avenue into seven single family lots.

A plan may be viewed, by request, by contacting West Goshen Township.★

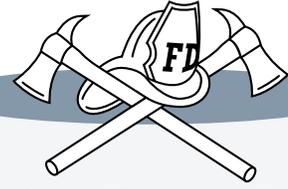


## Keep Your Grass Under Twelve Inches

In combination with the additional rainfall we have experienced and the onset of the growing season, we have noticed a slight increase in the number of vacant homes in the township with untended lawns. For many years West Goshen Township has had a weeds/high grass ordinance in effect, which states that between May 1st and September 30th of each calendar year, the owner of each lot shall control excessive vegetation by mowing or cutting such lot as often as is necessary to keep grass, brush, weeds and similar vegetation, growing on a lot to a height not to exceed twelve inches.

If a property is found to be in violation of this ordinance, a letter will be sent to the property owner requiring the property be mowed within ten days of receipt of the letter. If at that time there has been no response by the property owner or the property remains in violation, the Township may exercise its option to contract with a local landscaper to maintain the property. The property owner will be responsible for the bill.

Please be mindful of your neighbors, and maintain your property throughout the growing season! ★



## Safety Tips by Fire Marshal Andrea Testa

### Be Smart, Be Safe with Grills

Chapter 41 of The West Goshen Township Code establishes the International Fire Code as the enacted Fire Prevention Code for the Township. According to Section 308.3.1 of the International Fire Code, charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Section 308.3.1.1 of the International Fire Code mandates that liquefied petroleum gas burners having an LP gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Andrea Testa at 610-696-5266.

## Public Township Meetings

**Board of Supervisors** (4:00 PM, first and third Wednesday of each month, except where otherwise noted): July 15; August 19; September 16; October 7 and 21.

**Park and Recreation Board** (7:00 PM, third Wednesday of each month): July 15; August 19; September 16; October 21.

**Planning Commission** (7:00 PM third Tuesday of each month): July 21; August 18; September 15; October 20.

**Sewer Authority** (7:30 PM, first Wednesday of each month): July 1; August 5; September 2; October 7.

**Zoning Hearing Board** (7:00 PM, first Thursday after the second Wednesday of each month or as needed): July 9; August 13; September 10; October 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. Zoning Hearing Board Meetings may be cancelled or added as needed. Check [www.westgoshe.com](http://www.westgoshe.com) for updates.

# YOU Can Help Reduce Phosphorus Levels in West Goshen Township

Discharges from wastewater treatment plants are being faced with increasingly more stringent phosphorus limitations from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. At the West Goshen Wastewater Treatment Plant alone it is estimated that it will cost 24 million dollars to construct the facilities necessary to meet the new requirements. Many other treatment plants face much higher costs. A substantial increase in operation and maintenance costs due to chemical usage and sludge generation will also likely occur as a result of these new regulations. As a West Goshen resident and user of the sewer system, YOU can help offset some of these costs.

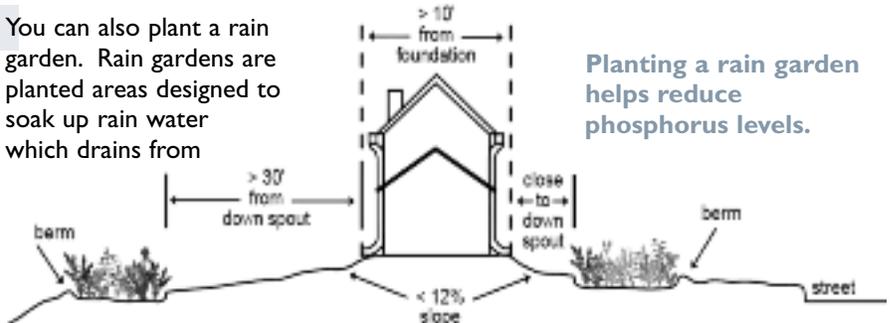
Many seemingly harmless activities added together can significantly increase the phosphorus loads on wastewater treatment plants and on streams. Phosphorus is found in lawn fertilizers, pesticides, cleaning compounds, detergents, and in human and other animal wastes. In West Goshen Township, one study has indicated that domestic waste (that's you) contributes almost 70% of the phosphorus introduced into the wastewater system.

- While phosphates are banned in commercial laundry soaps and hand dishwashing detergents, it is still readily used in automatic dishwasher

detergents. Voluntarily choosing a phosphate-free detergent would significantly lower the phosphorus load on the wastewater treatment plant and on the local streams. Phosphate-free detergents are now available at virtually all supermarkets. Remember, biodegradable does NOT mean phosphate-free!

- Avoid putting organic waste into your garbage disposal. Compost kitchen waste whenever possible.
- When fertilizing your lawn, choose an organic, phosphorus-free or low phosphorus fertilizer and only apply once a year in the fall when it will promote root development. Many commercial lawn care companies now offer these products and services. A soil test can be purchased for \$10 from the Chester County Extension Service to confirm if any phosphorus amendments are needed. Don't forget to leave grass clippings on the lawn to recycle nitrogen and phosphorus into the soil.

- You can also plant a rain garden. Rain gardens are planted areas designed to soak up rain water which drains from



a roof or other impervious surface. This allows for significantly more water to soak into the ground than conventional patches of lawn whereby decreasing downstream flooding, reducing stormwater runoff and erosion, and enhancing the filtering of pollutants. As part of a Goose Creek restoration project, West Goshen Township is partnering with the Chester-Ridley-Crum (CRC) Watershed Association and will be planting rain gardens at selected locations within the township. Homeowners will be able to visit the gardens where there will be information such as where to plant a garden, what to plant in a garden, and how a garden should be maintained. Stay tuned for further details.

Simple steps like these can drastically improve the water quality of our local water resources while at the same time provide a significant financial benefit of cutting treatment costs at the wastewater plant. ★



Volunteers including students from Henderson High School and West Goshen staff members participated in the 4th Annual Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association cleanup along Goose Creek in West Goshen Township on Saturday, April 18, 2009. 4,880 pounds of trash were removed from the creek during the cleanup. West Goshen Township wishes to express appreciation to Dan Lammey and Craig Marleton for their work with this cleanup for the past four years, and to all of the other residents and students who participated with the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association to make this event a success and our township a healthier place in which to live. ★

# ROAD RULES

## Are you considered a safe driver? Find out at DriveSafePA.org

As the summer driving season is about to shift into high gear, this is an ideal time to focus on highway safety. Whether it's buckling yourself and your children in the family vehicle or taking your motorcycle for a scenic ride, being a responsible driver is the key to everyone's safety on the road.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has launched a new website, DriveSafePA.org, that enables motorists easy access to highway safety resources.

The site is part of PennDOT's new highway safety campaign, Drive Safe PA, which aims to save at least 100 or more lives on Pennsylvania highways each year. DriveSafePA.org offers information and tips on these highway safety areas: aggressive driving, bicycle/pedestrian traffic, child

passenger safety, heavy trucks, engineering infrastructure, impaired driving, mature drivers, motorcycle safety, school bus safety, seat belts, work zones, and young drivers. Each of these areas is highlighted as part of an interactive quiz that allows motorists to test their highway safety knowledge. In addition, the website contains educational resources, including videos, radio public service announcements and traffic safety brochures. Recently enacted traffic safety laws such as the "Steer Clear" law and wiper and headlights law are also included on the site.

DriveSafePA.org will also include a monthly update on Pennsylvania traffic fatalities in an effort to emphasize the number of tragic losses that could be prevented by simply remembering to Drive Safe PA.

## Lease Provides West Goshen Township with More Athletic Fields

In a move to provide a significant increase in active recreation opportunities for township residents, West Goshen recently entered into a 25-year lease agreement with the West Chester Area School District for use of the Henderson North athletic fields. The fields are located adjacent to the Township's Robert Lambert Park, home of the skatepark, tennis courts, playground, and Rooney's Canine Corner.

Henderson North athletic fields provide a substantial increase to the active recreation opportunities for West Goshen Township residents.

The 28 acre parcel contains one baseball field, one softball field and two multipurpose fields suitable for soccer, lacrosse, and football. The School District's limited use of the facility for girls' softball allowed the Township ample opportunities to schedule little league baseball games and adult softball leagues. The lease resulted from a search for athletic fields because of the recent closure of Hallowell Field at the West Goshen Municipal Complex due to the pending construction of the Township's new streets building.



## Donate Blood at the West Goshen Township Administration Building

The need for stocking America's blood banks is constant, especially in the summer when donations and blood reserves are typically at their lowest. To help fill that need, the American Red Cross will come to the West Goshen Township Administration Building at Paoli Pike and N. Five Points Road for a blood drive on Wednesday, August 5th between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Anyone interested in participating should contact Sandy Turley, Assistant to the Township Manager, at 610-696-5266 to schedule an appointment. For more information about giving blood, visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org).



- Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion.
- Five million Americans will receive a blood transfusion in 2009.
- Blood donations are needed for emergency transfusions, but also because some people with cancer, blood disorders, sickle cell, anemia, or other illnesses need regular blood transfusions to live.
- Only 5% of the eligible U.S. population donates blood each year. ★

*Source: The American Red Cross.*

The addition of the four Henderson North athletic fields provides a substantial increase to the active recreation opportunities already located in the Township, including West Goshen Community Park, Richard Cloud Field, Coopersmith Park, Barker Park, and Lambert Park. ★

# THREE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF NEW YORK CITY

*Museums featuring exhibits by renowned contemporary artists...  
A holiday classic musical extravaganza... World-class shopping and dining...*

With so much to do in New York City, it's impossible to capture all of the excitement of the city that never sleeps in one afternoon. So the West Goshen Township Park and Recreation Department is offering three different bus trips to the Big Apple this fall.

## Guggenheim and Whitney Museums

Saturday, November 7, 2009

\$79 per adult; \$75 per senior or college student; \$65 per child under 18. Price includes round-trip transportation, admission to both museums, a guided education program, and lunch at One Fish Two Fish. Tour two world famous museums and see the works of top modern artists, including Kadinski and

Georgia O'Keefe. Join renowned art instructor Inez Starr on an in-depth look of some of the museums' masterpieces, spend some time on your own discovering the treasures of the Guggenheim and Whitney, and enjoy a meal in a classic Manhattan setting.

## Radio City Music Hall

Monday, December 7, 2009

\$145 per person includes round-trip transportation, a ticket to the show, dinner at Carmine's, and driver and server tips. Enjoy the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Then spend time in New York City on your own, before rejoining the group for a memorable Italian dinner prior to returning home.

## New York On Your Own

Saturday, December 12, 2009

\$35 per person for round-trip transportation and driver tip. West Goshen Township's most popular bus trip gives you the opportunity to go shopping, sightseeing, or just enjoying the Big Apple during the holidays.

Information and registration forms for any of these trips are available at [www.westgoshe.org](http://www.westgoshe.org), or by calling the West Goshen Park and Recreation Office at 610-696-5266. Registration is based on receipt of a completed registration form and payment on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the popularity of these trips, early registration is recommended. ★

**See New York's two new ballparks!** Visit [www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Yankees/yankees.html](http://www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Yankees/yankees.html) for information and registration for the Friday, July 24th trip to Yankee Stadium, or [www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Citi\\_Field/citi\\_field.html](http://www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Citi_Field/citi_field.html) to learn more about the Friday, August 21st trip to see the Phillies take on the Mets at Citi Field.

## Adventure Boot Camp for Women

The West Goshen Park and Recreation Department will offer a two-week Summer Blast session of Adventure Boot Camp for Women from 5:30 AM through 6:30 AM between the dates of August 17th and August 28th. The cost for the two-week Blast is \$150 for West Goshen residents or \$160 for residents of other municipalities.

Fall sessions will take place from 6:00 AM through 7:00 AM. Registrants can sign up for any of the following sessions:

September 14th through October 9th  
October 19th through November 13th

The cost for each full session is \$300 for West Goshen residents or \$320 for non-residents.

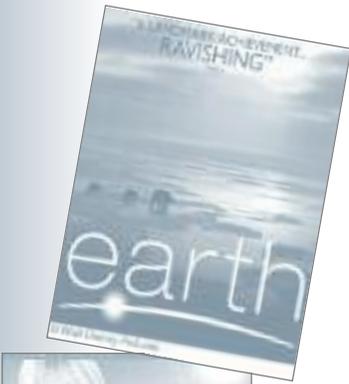
Can't commit to attend every morning? Participants can sign up for partial sessions and attend three mornings per week. The cost for each partial session is \$200 for West Goshen residents or \$210 for non-residents. For more information about Adventure Boot Camp for Women, visit [www.greatvalleybootcamp.com](http://www.greatvalleybootcamp.com). ★



Cyndi Janzen as Titania and John Jezior as Bottom in the Commonwealth Classic Theatre Company's FREE performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at West Goshen Community Park on Saturday, July 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM. For more information, visit [www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Shakespeare/shakespeare.html](http://www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Shakespeare/shakespeare.html).

# A Tale of Pumpkins, Families, and Fun

A pumpkin sits in a field, just waiting for a new home. A haycart arrives, full of excited children and their parents. The tots run through the patch, picking their autumnal bounty. The kids scurry back onto the haycart for a ride through the park. Upon arriving at the picnic pavilion, there is still more fun to be had. The children can drink cider and cocoa and eat apples and cookies, have their faces painted, listen to songs by Makin' Music, and guess the weight of West Goshen's largest pumpkin, hoping that they win the prize for coming closest to the actual weight. And with the clothes they brought, they can make their own scarecrows to take home and even win a prize in the scarecrow contest. All this fun takes place at West Goshen Community Park on Sunday, October 25th between 2:00 and 4:00 PM. The children and parents have brought donations of dry goods (diapers, soap, toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, etc.) to go to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Coatesville. The children's parents are happy because they know that the event is free of charge, and that that they don't have to worry about missing the Eagles game, since the Eagles play on Monday night that week. Families have registered online at [www.westgoshen.org/Departments/Events/Harvest\\_Festival/harvest\\_festival.html](http://www.westgoshen.org/Departments/Events/Harvest_Festival/harvest_festival.html). Parents know that they can contact the West Goshen Township Park and Recreation Department at [klehr@westgoshen.org](mailto:klehr@westgoshen.org) or by phone at 610-696-5266 with any questions.



## Park and Recreation Department Announces (most of the) FALL MOVIE SERIES

¾ of the West Goshen Fall Movie Series has been scheduled. The rest is up to you.

This year, movies will begin on Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM at the J. Leon Hagerty Amphitheater at West Goshen Community Park. Scheduled movies this year include:

**September 19th: Hannah Montana The Movie (G).** To deal with the fame taking over her life, America's most popular teen sensation decides to take a trip back home to Tennessee. Riding horses and getting back to her old way of living gives her some perspective on what really matters.

**September 26th: Earth (G).** Disney's stunning documentary featuring narration by James Earl Jones shows natural wonders from across the globe including whales cavorting in the oceans, rivers

tumbling over mountain-high waterfalls, and the migratory patterns of several species.

**October 3rd: Monsters vs. Aliens (PG).** In this animated Dreamworks hit, when Earth is threatened by aliens, a secret ragtag group of monsters becomes the planet's only hope.

**October 10th: ???** West Goshen residents can vote for the final movie to be shown in the series at [www.westgoshen.org](http://www.westgoshen.org) through Friday, September 25th. Only one ballot will be accepted per email address. Ballots will also be available at the September 19th showing of **Hannah Montana The Movie**. Movie choices are:

- **Coraline (PG)**
- **Hotel for Dogs (PG)**
- **Kung Fu Panda (PG)**

- **Madagascar 2: Escape 2 Africa (PG)**
- **Paul Blart Mall Cop (PG)**
- **The Pink Panther 2 (PG)**
- **The Tale of Despereaux (PG)**

Please note that this schedule is based on the tentative release dates by the film studios and may be subject to alteration with any changes to the release schedule by the studios. For the latest information, visit [www.westgoshen.org](http://www.westgoshen.org).

All movies are **FREE OF CHARGE**. Guests to these events are encouraged to bring a dry good item (e.g., soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo, etc.) to be donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard and the Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center for distribution to low-income families and veterans in Chester County. ★

# Fall Water Walking Sessions Announced

The West Goshen Park and Recreation Department announces Fall sessions of the popular Senior Water Walking Program at the ACAC Fitness and Wellness Center. Have fun, get fit, and benefit from the natural and comfortable resistance of water in ACAC's heated pool. Sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:00 and 1:45 PM. Choose from the following months:

## September 2009

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
September 1	September 3
September 8	September 10
September 15	September 17
September 22	September 24

## October 2009

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
October 6	October 8
October 13	October 15
October 20	October 22
October 27	October 29

## November 2009

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
November 3	November 5
November 10	November 12
November 17	November 19
(No sessions Thanksgiving week)	
December 1	December 3

The cost is \$50 for each month of eight sessions. For more information, visit [www.westgoshen.org](http://www.westgoshen.org). ★

## Tenth Annual West Goshen Resident Art Exhibit

**2009 marks the tenth celebration of the West Goshen Resident Art Exhibit.**

This annual display features the works of amateur and professional artists living right here in West Goshen Township including paintings, photographs, sculptures, wood carvings, quilts, needlepoints, and other works of art. All residents of the Township are welcome to participate regardless of age or level or art education.

The Resident Art Exhibit will be on display at the West Goshen Township Administrative Building (Paoli Pike and N. Five Points Road) through the months of September and October.

Anyone interested in participating in the exhibit may submit an original work of art (which has not previously been exhibited in the Township Administration Building) with an entry form by Monday, August 31st, at 3:00 PM. Exhibit entry forms may be obtained from the Township website at



*"Wyoming Drift Wood" by Joseph Clinton from the 2008 West Goshen Resident Exhibit*



*"Reticulus Seven" by Phil Bruner from the 2008 West Goshen Resident Exhibit*

[www.westgoshen.org](http://www.westgoshen.org) or by calling 610-696-5266.

West Goshen Township will host a public reception to meet the artists on Wednesday, September 9th between

7:00 and 8:00 PM. Visitors are welcome to the reception, or to observe the artwork on Mondays through Thursdays from 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

## Environmental Fair at Community Park

West Goshen Township is partnering with State Representative Barbara McIlvaine Smith to host a free Environmental Fair at West Goshen Community Park on **Saturday, September 12th between 9:00 AM and noon**. The fair will provide practical information and ideas for improving energy efficiency and reducing energy costs. It will also showcase alternative and renewable energy resources, as well as sound conservation and environmentally friendly products. Meet representatives from over 25 environmental groups and learn how to reduce your impact on the environment and achieve a greener lifestyle. For more information visit [www.pahouse.com/bsmith](http://www.pahouse.com/bsmith) or [www.westgoshen.org](http://www.westgoshen.org) in August or September.



## Part of Our Community

*"Nuk flas anglisht."*

*"Ne govorim hrvatski."*

*"Jeg taler ikke engelsk."*

*"En puhu englantii."*

*"Je ne parle pas anglais."*

*"Ich spreche kein Englisch."*

For someone not conversant in English, even communicating that you don't speak the language can be a difficult experience. Yet, that is one of the main challenges facing the growing number of immigrants and refugees learning to adjust to life and culture in the United States.

The Volunteer English Program in Chester County (VEP) offers one-on-one instruction to those trying to master the language of their new country. Students and tutors meet for 1½ hours twice per week over the course of the year, with students setting and striving to meet goals for English competence.

VEP began serving Chester County's immigrant community in 1986 from the basement of the Calvary Lutheran Church at New and Rosedale Streets in West Chester Borough. That first year, ten volunteers helped ten immigrants with English instruction. In 2001, the independent non-profit organization moved to its current location in West Goshen Township at 790 E. Market Street. Currently, VEP pairs approximately 225 students with 180 volunteer tutors each year.

According to Linda Grosse, Executive Director of VEP, volunteers come from a variety of professional backgrounds, and range in age from seventeen years old through the mid-eighties.

"Many times people want to do this because it's so different than what they do during the day," says Grosse. "Our volunteers are busy, busy people, but they find time for this."

Tutors attend three three-hour evening training sessions in the fall, winter, or spring. Tutors are not expected to know the language of students they will work with, so they need to learn education strategies other than direct translation. In training they will use textbooks, picture books, and learn techniques such as Total Physical Response, in which tutors will act out what they are saying, and Realia, a teaching technique that involves everyday objects the student needs help with such as bills, letters, notices, or work-related items.

VEP does not advertise for students. This is partly a result of budgetary



constraints, but mostly due to the logistics of reaching non-English speakers. Because VEP serves immigrants from all over the world, there would be no one place to conveniently reach all potential clients, nor no one way to communicate their services in a way everyone could understand. Nonetheless, VEP has a waiting list of clients looking for tutors, mostly from word of mouth from past clients, employers, or family or friends of recent immigrants. Potential students would interview and be tested to determine how much or how little English they know. Students at the beginner level typically are not able to speak or read the English language. Intermediate students usually need help developing language skills for their jobs or their children's education. Advanced students usually look to develop their

writing skills. All tutoring is completely free of charge to the students.

In addition to formal tutoring sessions, students can choose to participate in English conversation groups, often held at the Three Little Pigs Restaurant in West Chester Borough or at the Tredyffrin and Paoli libraries.

"One on one tutoring is important, but it can be isolating," points out Grosse.

In addition to a full-time executive director, VEP also employs three part-time staff members who process new student intakes, oversee the training of tutors, and match tutors and students. The non-profit organization is overseen by a fourteen-member Board of Directors consisting of business people, educators, and volunteers. Although VEP receives some state education funding, the bulk of its operation budget comes from private foundations, businesses, and individuals. Annual fundraising efforts include a breakfast at Longwood Gardens, and a direct mail appeal letter.

The need for tutors is constant, as VEP continuously recruits new volunteers using such low-cost methods as church bulletins, public service announcements, community bulletin boards, and press releases and interviews for news articles. Grosse says that the unpaid tutors can find the experience to be deeply rewarding.

"Tutors say 'We learned as much, if not more from the students,'" according to Grosse. "We feel we serve not just our students but our tutors with a managed opportunity to volunteer and to learn about other people on this planet."

*For more information about the Volunteer English Program in Chester County or to learn more about volunteering, visit [www.volunteerenglish.org](http://www.volunteerenglish.org) or call 610-918-8222. ★*

# LEARN NOT TO BURN

According to the American Cancer Society, melanoma is becoming more common in the United States, accounting for one death every 67 minutes. As you go outside this summer, you can help protect yourself and your loved ones by taking the following actions:

**Limit time in the midday sun.** The sun's rays are strongest between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

**Seek shade.** When spending prolonged periods of time outside, stay under the cover of shade whenever possible.

**Always use sunscreen.** A minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 is recommended. Reapply every two hours.

**Cover up.** Eyes, ears, face, and neck are particularly prone to overexposure to the sun, and can greatly benefit from added shade provided by a wide-brimmed hat. When purchasing sunglasses, check the label to make sure they offer UVA and UVB protection.

**Avoid sunlamps and tanning salons.** These are both artificial sources of dangerous ultraviolet (UV) light.

**Watch for the UV index.** This information, developed by the National Weather Service and the Environmental Protection Agency, provides important information to help you plan your outdoor activities in ways that prevent overexposure to the sun. The UV index is made available to a number of free commercial services, such as [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com). ★

*Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency*



## ROONIE SAYS...

### You can help keep your canine friend safe from kennel cough.

Kennel cough, or tracheobronchitis, is an airborne disease caused by a variety of viruses and bacteria transmitted by dogs coming into contact with other dogs. Kennel cough can be spread from neighbors' dogs, at dog shows, in kennels and veterinary offices, or at dogparks such as Roonie's Canine Corner.

Typically, a dog suffering from tracheobronchitis will have a dry hacking cough that sounds like the dog is trying to clear its throat, and may have runny eyes and nose, swollen tonsils, wheezing, and a lack of appetite. In some severe cases symptoms may include lethargy, fever, or pneumonia. Clinical signs of infection usually manifest themselves two to fourteen days after initial exposure, and may last from one to three weeks. Even after a dog has stopped exhibiting signs of the disease, he may still spread the disease for up to three months, according to Dr. Willi Weichelt of the West Chester Veterinary Medical Center in West Goshen Township.

Dog owners can do their part to prevent the spread of kennel cough. If you plan on bringing your dog into contact with other dogs, such as at Roonie's Canine Corner, boarding kennels, or dog shows, Dr. Weichelt recommends having your dog vaccinated with an intranasal

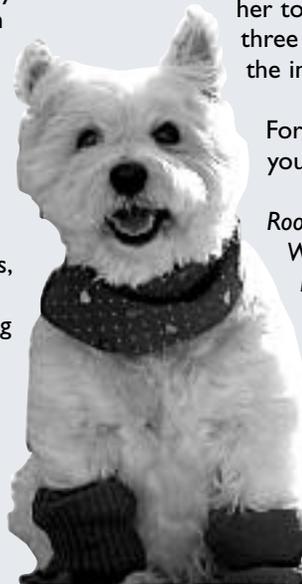
vaccine for both parainfluenza and bordetella. These vaccines are also available in injectable form. Vaccinated dogs should then be isolated from other dogs for seven days while the vaccine takes effect. In some cases, dogs may exhibit the symptoms of tracheobronchitis after receiving the vaccine. Check with your veterinarian about subsequent booster shots to insure maximum protection for your dog.

Do not bring young puppies to the dogpark or any other location with a large concentration of dogs, as they may be susceptible to illness or to spreading the disease. Roonie's Canine Corner requires all canine visitors to be at least four months old.

If you think your dog may be infected, it is best to take him or her to your veterinarian to make sure the cough is not in fact a sign of a more serious illness. Kennel cough can usually be treated with mild cough suppressants or with antibiotics in severe cases. Although medications can cure the symptoms, the viruses and bacteria will still be present in your dog, so you should avoid exposing him or her to other dogs for two to three months to avoid spreading the infection.

For more information, contact your veterinarian.

*Roonie, the West Goshen Township Westie and namesake of Roonie'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.*



# New Web Tool Allows Pennsylvanians to Check Status of Property Tax/Rent Rebates

Eligible older adults and residents with disabilities can now check the status of Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications online at [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com)

“Our commitment to property tax relief is unwavering, and this new Web tool enhances customer service for the older adults and people with disabilities who rely on these annual checks,” Governor Edward G. Rendell said, introducing the new tool in April.

Six weeks after submitting a Property Tax/Rent Rebate application, the applicant may visit [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com) and check the status of the rebate by entering his or her Social Security number, anticipated rebate amount, and birth date. Applicants may use the website to confirm claim status, rebate amount, and the date a rebate is expected to be mailed or direct-deposited.

[www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com)

Through a similar automated phone service, Property Tax/Rent Rebate applicants can check rebate status by calling, toll-free, 888-PATAXES (888-728-2937).

The new online tool to check rebate status has the potential to reduce administrative costs for the Revenue Department. The online service is maintained at a minimal cost, while each toll-free phone call from taxpayers costs the department about 3.1 cents in phone charges, plus costs associated with staffing.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. A 2006 program expansion increased

the income limit from \$15,000 to \$35,000 (which excludes half of Social Security income) for homeowners and raises the

maximum standard rebate for both homeowners and renters from \$500 to \$650. The income limit for renters is \$15,000.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms and information are available online at [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com) and by calling 1-888-222-9190. Forms and assistance also are available at Department of Revenue district offices (listed in the government section of local telephone directories), local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices.

The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2008 is Dec. 31, 2009. ★



## Keep Your Clients Up to Date on the Latest News from West Goshen Township

Attention business owners, building managers, and community organization supervisors located in West Goshen Township:

Your group can make The West Goshen Township Newsletter available to your clients. Just contact Newsletter Editor Ken Lehr at [klehr@westgoshen.org](mailto:klehr@westgoshen.org) or at 610-696-5266 and let him know how many newsletters you would like. Copies of The West Goshen Township Newsletter would be delivered to your organization each quarter in January, April, July, and October. ★

## State Law Requires Contractors to Register with Attorney General

Beginning July 1, 2009, the Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act requires all contractors whose home improvement business exceeds \$5,000 per year to register with the Office of Attorney General. Applicants will receive a certificate and wallet card with a registration number. This registration number will be required on all advertisements, contracts, estimates, and proposals with consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The law provides criminal penalties for home improvement fraud and civil

penalties for violation of the act, and requires written contracts between the contractor and consumer when the total cash price of all work agreed upon exceeds \$500.

Visit [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) or call 717-772-2425 for the Home Improvement Contractor Application, for more information about the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act, or for consumer requests for information about the registration status of contractors.

# WEST GOSHEN



Township Newsletter • Volume 19 No. 1  
Summer 2009

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www.westgoshen.org

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West Chester, PA  
Permit #79

## Township Holidays

Township offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. Trash will be collected on Tuesday, September 8th and Friday, September 11th that week.



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**Please note that the stretch of Turner Lane between Paoli Pike and West Chester Pike is a private road providing access to the businesses located there. Through traffic is prohibited. ★**

## Park and Recreation Board Researching Community Gardens

The West Goshen Park and Recreation Board is examining the feasibility of creating community gardens, an area of land that could be subdivided into plots to be used by West Goshen residents. The greatest challenge facing the board is locating a suitable parcel of land. Land for community gardening must be of sufficient size to be subdivided into individual plots for gardeners, must be flat, must have access to a source of water, and must be reserved from any other uses. West Goshen Township currently has over 110 acres of parkland, but none that meet all of these conditions.



**Any business or property owners with land you would like to set aside for community gardening are encouraged to contact the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department at 610-696-5266 or klehr@westgoshen.org. ★**