

WEST GOSHEN



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

Fall 2013

Township Newsletter • Volume 23 No. 2

*Show your pride in
West Goshen Township!
The Friends of West Goshen
Parks are selling holiday
greeting cards featuring winter
scenes of West Goshen's
parks. Info on page 15.*



Welcome to West Goshen: One of America's Top Places to Live

West Goshen Township was rated the tenth best place to live in the United States according to the September 2013 issue of Money Magazine. This marks the fourth straight time West Goshen Township was rated in the top 25 of Money Magazine's biennial rankings, making West Goshen Township one of five towns in the country to achieve this distinction. For the third consecutive time, West Goshen was rated the best place to live in Pennsylvania.

When ranking communities, Money Magazine starts with all 1,326 U.S. towns

with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 people. Communities with a median family income more than 200% or less than 85% of the state average, places with more than 95% of one ethnic race, and those with poor education, crime scores, and major job losses were eliminated from consideration. The remaining 622 towns were then ranked based on job growth, housing appreciation and affordability, safety, diversity, ease of living, and access to schools, health care, arts, and leisure. The list was further refined based on more data on the economy, jobs, real estate, and health care, with most weight being given to economic and housing factors. Staff members from Money then visited the 36 remaining towns to interview residents, assess traffic, parks, and public spaces, and consider intangibles like community spirit.

According to Money Magazine, "West Goshen Township has a lush, suburban feel, with quiet, tree-shaded residential areas, lovely parks, and a full slate of community activities."

Raymond H. Halvorsen, chairman of the West Goshen Board of Supervisors, understandably takes great pride in Money's recognition of the Township, saying "This is a great honor."

Halvorsen points out that while West Goshen scored well in Money Magazine's rankings based on economic data, the

site visits were key in order for West Goshen to achieve a Top Ten ranking.

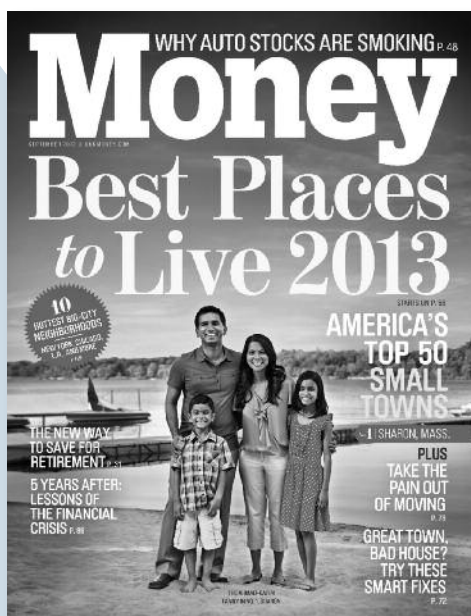
"You're looking at the flavor of the community—how the residents feel about where they live," he said. "The intangibles like community spirit are what Money Magazine is looking for. People are generally happy with the complete package."

Recognition by a national magazine certainly brings a sense of pride to residents of the Township.

"Everybody I speak to is proud and complimentary," says Halvorsen, who also indicates that the ranking can also help homeowners in a more tangible way. "What this ranking does is maintain a value. What do people look for? When you buy a house, do you want a comfort zone to raise your children there?"

The recognition did not go unnoticed by the Pennsylvania Senate which on July 17, 2013 issued a proclamation that read in part: "The Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania congratulates West Goshen Township on the great honor which is being bestowed upon it (and) offers best wishes for continued success and excellence in all future endeavors."

The tenth place rank is West Goshen's highest rating in Money Magazine's prestigious and coveted list. ★



Subdivision and Land Development Report

The following plans have been approved for development:

881 Westtown Road – Braun Subdivision

Location: 881 Westtown Road

This plan involves the reconfiguration of two existing residential parcels totaling 5.77 acres. There is an existing residence at 881 Westtown Road. A single family dwelling is proposed to be constructed on the other lot.

Albert Filano Subdivision

Location: 819 Roslyn Avenue

The subdivision plan involves the creation of two residential lots from a 1.3 acre site located at 819 Roslyn Avenue. An existing residence will remain on one lot.

AAA Mid Atlantic, Inc.

Location: 707 E. Gay Street

The land development involves the construction of a 4,360 square foot travel center office and a 4,300 square foot automobile repair services building with reconstruction of the existing parking facilities located at 707 East Gay Street.

Existing conditions for the site consist of a 7,650 square foot one-story office building which will be removed and a two-story office building on the northern portion of the site which will remain. The total site consists of 2.03 acres of which the AAA facility will occupy 1.01 acres. Conditional Use approval was granted by the Board of Supervisors on August 14, 2013.

Krapf Bus Co – Lot 10, WGBP

Location: 1030 Andrew Drive

The plan involves a 2,400 square foot building addition located at 1030 Andrew Drive.

Delco Properties

Location: 1230 American Boulevard

The plan involves a 180 square foot office addition located at 1230 American Boulevard.

The following plans remain under review:

McDonald's Rebuild

Location: 927 South High Street

The proposed plan concerns the demolition of the existing 4,025 square foot restaurant and the rebuilding of a 3,344 square foot restaurant with improvements.

WAWA/CVS/Bank

Location: 1010 West Chester Pike

Plan proposes to demolish the existing building (Thomas Chevrolet) and construct a 5,102 square foot convenience store, a 14,600 square foot pharmacy, and a 3,650 square foot bank.

3-Lot Subdivision

Location: East Side of Pottstown Pike, South of Greenhill Road

The proposed plan will create a three lot single family detached dwelling subdivision. An existing house is to remain on one of the lots.

The Woodlands at Greystone

Location: Northwest corner of the Route 322 By-Pass and Phoenixville Pike

The submitted plan proposes for the development of 598 dwelling units pursuant to the Flexible Design

township information

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6 year elected term

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Patricia B. McIlvaine, *Vice-Chairman*
Philip J. Corvo, *Member*
Theodore J. Murphy, Esq., *Member*
Dr. Robert S. White, *Member*

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Jeanne M. Denham, *Finance Director*
Raymond H. Halvorsen, *Director of Public Works*
Richard J. Craig, *Township Engineer*
J. David Woodward, *Streets Superintendent*
Dorine A. Hannum, *Parks Superintendent*

WEST GOSHEN POLICE

1025 Paoli Pike, W.C., 19380
Police 911 or 610.696.7400
Fax 610.696.3935
police@westgosheh.org
Joseph J. Gleason, *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*

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Dorine A. Hannum
Kenneth W. Lehr
Gerald L. Napiecek
Nancy Pine
Sara J. Franco, *Alternate*
Michael McKinley, *Alternate*

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Monica Drewniany, *Vice-Chairman*
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Vito Genua
Jeffrey Laudenslager
Jeffrey S. Lieberman
Carrie Martin
Will Morrison
John T. Wildrick

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Salvatore Triolo, *Alternate*

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David R. Johnson, *Vice-Chairman*
Philip J. Corvo, *Secretary*
Ron Rothrock, *Treasurer*
Dr. Robert S. White, *Member*
Frank J. Biasi, *Alternate*

THE FRIENDS OF WEST GOSHEN PARKS, INC.

Non-profit group assisting the Park and Recreation Board; meets bimonthly
John Herley, *President*
John Smith, *Vice-President*
(Vacant), *Secretary*
Marilyn Reich, *Treasurer*
Larue Morgan, *Member*
Gerald L. Napiecek, *Member*
Peggy Niemeyer, *Member*

AUDITORS

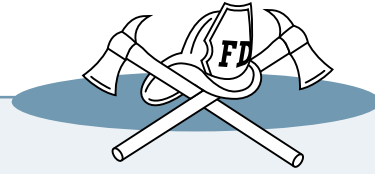
Hugh J. Purnell, Jr., *Chairman*
William Gale, *Secretary*
Edward G. Meakim, Jr., *Member*

TAX COLLECTOR

William R. Keenan

TOWNSHIP PARKS

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



Safety Tips by Fire Marshal Andrea Testa

Special Needs Registry

Conservation District regulations for a 446+ acre property located along Pottstown Pike, Phoenixville Pike, and the Route 322 Bypass (commonly referred to as the Jerrehian tract).

Goshen Leisure Development II

Location: 21 Hagerty Boulevard: East of Route 202, North of Hagerty Boulevard
The proposed plan reflects 164,150 square feet of flex office and warehouse buildings to be located at 21 Hagerty Boulevard.

415 Goshen Road Subdivision

Location: 415 Goshen Road
The proposed plan will subdivide the property, located at 415 Goshen Road into five single family lots.

The following plan has been withdrawn:

McDonald's Restaurant Expansion

Location: 927 South High Street
The plan presented reflects a 4,285 square foot building addition/remodel for the existing restaurant. (See the "McDonald's Rebuild" submission on page 2.)

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

Chester County Department of Emergency Services has a Special Needs Registry that allows county and local governments to identify and assist individuals with special needs during an emergency and particularly in case of an evacuation.

The registry is a planning tool to allow individuals with special needs the opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies, so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency.

Who is an individual with special needs?

An individual with special needs is someone who will require assistance in excess of that provided to the general public in a time of disaster, particularly in the event that large scale evacuation is necessary. A family member or loved one can sign up on behalf of an individual. The definition of someone with special needs for emergency management is "Those individuals, who cannot receive,

understand or act upon emergency protective orders."

Why should I sign up? By signing up for the registry you will let emergency responders know who you are and what type of need you have. The information you provide will be used in the planning process, as well as in post disaster response.

When would my information be used? Emergency responders would use it to plan for emergencies. The information would be stored securely and not available to the public, and only accessed for the purpose of emergency response and planning. You will be emailed once a year to verify the information provided is correct and to make any necessary changes.

For more information, visit the Special Needs Registry at www.specialneeds.pa.org or contact Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Coordinator Andrea Testa at 610-696-5266. ★

Public Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors (7:00 PM, second Wednesday of each month, except January): November 13; December 11; Annual Organization Meeting—Monday, January 6.

Park and Recreation Board (7:00 PM, third Wednesday of each month, except when otherwise indicated; no December meeting): November 20; January 15.

Planning Commission (7:00 PM third Tuesday of each month): November 19; December 17; January 21.

Sewer Authority (7:30 PM, first Wednesday of each month, except New Year holiday): November 6; December 4; January 8.

Zoning Hearing Board (7:00 PM, first Thursday after the second Wednesday each month): November 14; December 12; January 9. (Visit www.westgoshen.org to confirm hearings.)

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.

ROAD RULES

In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information for drivers, focusing on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code or other traffic safety issues.

Increased Deer Activity on the Roadway

With autumn among us and the earlier onset of nightfall, motorists should be prepared for the increase in deer activity and watch carefully for deer darting across the roadways. Deer movement increases during the fall breeding season, making it all the more important for motorists to drive defensively and stay alert, especially at



dawn and dusk, to reduce the risk of striking a deer. Since deer often travel in small herds, motorists should exercise caution when one deer crosses a roadway as it will likely be followed by others. By following a few safety tips, motorists can help reduce the possibility of being involved in a crash with a deer.

Remember to:

- Be on the alert for deer entering the woods early in the morning and leaving in the late evening hours

- Make young drivers aware of increased deer movement
- Slow down and use caution, particularly where deer crossing signs are posted and increase following distance between vehicles
- Be especially watchful during morning and evening hours when wildlife is most active
- Always wear your seat belt
- Never drink and drive
- Turn on your headlights if your wipers are on—it's the law. ★

2013 Snow Rodeo

In preparation for winter, members of the West Goshen Public Works Department participated in the 2013 Annual Snow Plow Operator Training on Thursday, October 10th. The training involved reviewing operator safety and material usage, inspection of a truck with five faults to test the operators on pre-trip inspections, and a presentation by 6ABC meteorologist and traffic reporter Karen Rogers. Snow plow operators then participated in a snow rodeo, an obstacle course which simulates actual conditions that challenge plow operators during a snow event. Additional information about Snow Rodeos is available in "Rodeo Allows Drivers to Practice Skills" in the Winter 2013 issue of the West Goshen Township Newsletter at www.westgoshe.org/PDFs/Newsletters/WGTWinter13.pdf. ★



6ABC meteorologist and traffic reporter Karen Rogers gave a presentation.



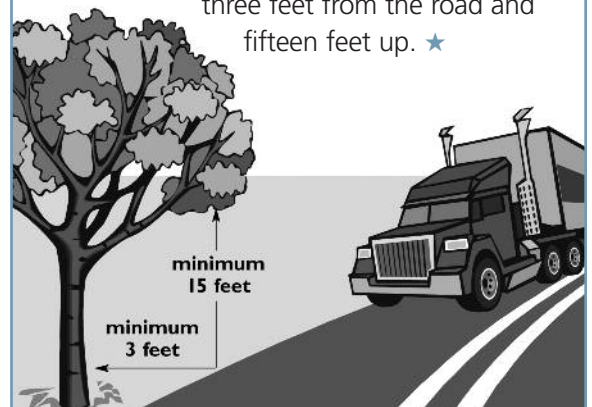
Snow Rodeo obstacle course



Keep Roadways Clear of Tree Limbs

Tree limbs extending out over roadways pose potential traffic hazards and can affect vital Township services. Trucks blocked by protruding limbs may be forced to drive into oncoming traffic. Fire emergency vehicles, school buses, and snow plows may be damaged by limbs extending into roadways, putting them out of service. If a snow plow has to navigate around tree branches, the road may not be totally plowed.

All tree limbs, shrubs, etc. which are protruding into a roadway, must be cleared by the property owners of the trees. Trees may not extend closer than a distance of three feet from the road and fifteen feet up. ★





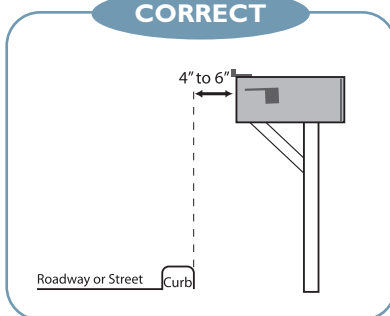
Plan Ahead for Snow Removal

Property owners are asked to follow these guidelines before, during, and after plowing, so the West Goshen Township Streets Department may clear snow from the Township's 93 miles of roadways as quickly and safely as possible.

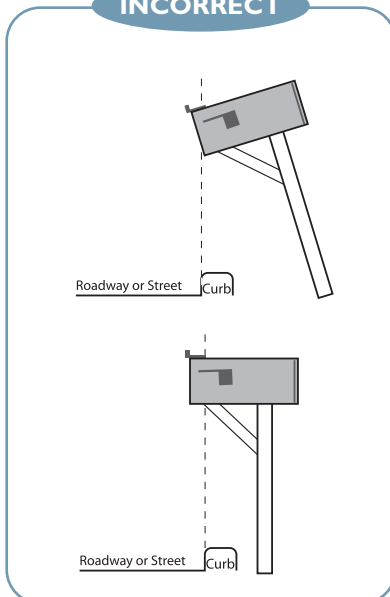
Before the Snow Falls...

- **Make sure the front of your mailbox is at least four to six inches behind the front of the curb and mounted at a height of four feet.** Mailboxes closer to the curb and lower to the ground are most likely to be damaged by the weight of snow being pushed from a plow. Take time to make sure your mailbox is sturdy enough to withstand the weight of snow being pushed into it. Make sure to clear snow from all walkways, stairs, and paths to mailboxes. For confirmed cases of mailboxes being damaged by plowing operations, West Goshen Township will

CORRECT



INCORRECT

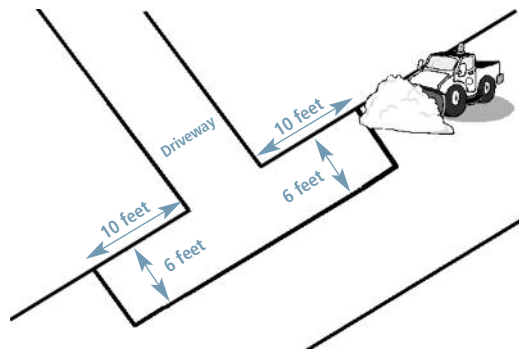


provide a new black or white mailbox and a wooden post.

- **Trim tree branches hanging over the road.** See "Keep Roadways Free of Tree Limbs" and illustration on page 4 for more information.
- **Keep cul-de-sacs and roads free of parked cars from the time snow starts until the roads are cleared.** In the case of steep driveways, park at the mouth of the drive, but off the road. If a car is parked on a roadside or cul-de-sac, we may not finish plowing that street, but would return several hours or even the next day to complete the work.

While Roads are Being Plowed...

- **Do not place shoveled, blown, or plowed snow from driveways, sidewalks, or parking lots onto public streets.** This is extremely dangerous and is a violation of Chapter 70 ("Streets and Sidewalks") of the West Goshen Code, punishable by fines up to \$1,000 per day. The ordinance also prohibits piling snow into storm gutters.
- **When shoveling your driveway, leave the last six feet of your drive unshoveled until the plowing has ceased.** This unshoveled part will allow the snow being pushed by the plow to remain on the plow and not dumped into your drive. If you must shovel out your drive, clear a six foot area of the road that is directly in front of the mouth of your drive. In addition clear an area ten feet before and after the mouth of your drive, so that when the plow comes through, it will unload snow that it is pushing in the cleared area and not in the mouth of your driveway. Use the illustration below as a guide for shoveling before the roadways have been cleared.



- **Be patient.** Snow removal does take time, especially in heavy snowfall. West Goshen Township will usually plow potentially dangerous and heavily travelled areas first. Drivers begin one pass in each direction on streets and one pass into and out of cul-de-sacs. Once an initial clearance is made on each roadway, drivers commence with the process of pushing snow back to the road's edge and cleaning out cul-de-sacs. Any residual snow will be pushed back from streets when the storm has ended.

- **Note that West Goshen Township does not clear all streets within the Township.** Cougar Lane, Derry Lane, Furr Avenue, Gated Lane, Hicks Road, Honeysuckle Court, Hydrangia Court, Kimes Avenue, Lintell Drive, Links Drive, Llewlyn Circle, Morning Glory Drive, Mantel Drive, McDermott Drive, Oak Circle, Peaceful Lane, Pine Circle, Prospect Avenue, Sorber Drive, Thomas Avenue, Turner Avenue, Turner Lane between Paoli Pike and West Chester Pike, S. Walnut Street, E. Washington Street between Garfield and the dead end, Woodcrest Circle, Wrights Lane, and Wisteria Lane are cleared by the developers or property owners. PennDOT clears the following streets: Boot Road, Fern Hill Road, S. Five Points Road between Westtown Road and Little Shiloh Road, Garfield Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Paoli Pike, Goshen Road east of North Hills, Greenhill Road, S. High Street (Business Route 322), E. Marshall Street, Lincoln Avenue, Montgomery Avenue, Paoli Pike, Phoenixville Pike, Pottstown Pike, Strasburg Road, West Chester Pike (Route 3), Westtown Road, and Routes 100, 202, and 322.

After Roads have been Plowed...

- **Report any problems to West Goshen Township at 610-696-5266** between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Mondays through Thursdays. Please leave your name, address, phone number, and the nature of the problem. Calls received after 3:00 PM may not be acted upon until the next business day. On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays or after 5:00 PM, emergencies may be reported to the Police Department at 610-696-7400. ★

Trash, Recyclables, Bulk Trash, and Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Disposal

The semiannual Waste and Recycling Guide published in the spring and fall issues of the West Goshen Township Newsletter is your source for information about proper disposal of trash and recyclables in West Goshen Township. Please note that guidelines for trash and recyclable collections and household hazardous waste disposal may change over time, and that individuals should make sure they are current on the latest information by referring to this guide or visiting www.westgoshen.org/Departments/Trash_and_Recycling/trash_and_recycling.html. Guidelines are divided into three property categories:



Single family homes: Houses that receive municipal trash collection from West Goshen Township's trash hauling contract with Republic Services/Allied Waste.



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



Businesses: Includes commercial business properties such as stores, markets, office buildings, restaurants, and shopping centers; industrial properties such as factories, foundries, processing plants, and warehouses; institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, private and public schools, and universities; and public agencies including government agencies, authorities, and councils.

TRASH

Single family homes: Trash collections are on Mondays and Thursdays. In the event of a Monday holiday, trash will be collected on Tuesday and Friday that week. In the event of a Thursday holiday, trash will be collected that Friday.

All trash (except bulk items) must be placed inside the Township-provided 96 gallon container, and the container must be placed at curbside before 6:00 AM or the night before with the front wheels against the curb and the handle and wheels facing away from the street. The container must be at least four feet away from mailboxes, cars, or any other obstacles, and at least three feet to the left or right of any recycling containers. Trash will not be picked up if it is put out after the truck has arrived. We recommend that you write your address in permanent black marker on the trash container, and make note of its unique

identification number (indicated on the trash container) assigned to your home, to avoid any confusion with neighbors' trash containers.

Multi-unit residences and businesses: Please consult your property owner for trash disposal locations.

BULK TRASH

Single family homes: A maximum of one bulk item will be collected per week. A bulk item is an appliance or piece of furniture 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 accepted. A maximum of four carpet rolls, each no longer than four feet in length, will be collected. If you are unsure whether or not your bulk trash item will be collected, call 610-696-5266, ext. 4305 or email lcovatta@westgoshen.org.

Multi-unit residences and businesses: Please consult your property owner for bulk trash disposal procedures.

RECYCLABLES

Single family homes: Recyclables are collected on Mondays, and must be placed in a recycling bucket or a trash can with a Township recycling sticker attached to it by 6:00 Monday morning or the night before. Twenty gallon recycling buckets (\$10) and free recycling stickers are available at the West Goshen Township Administration Building. Please mark each bucket with your street and house number, and place it to the left or right of your trash can, with at least three feet of clearance between the containers. In the event of a Monday holiday, recyclables would be collected the following day.

There is no maximum limit to the amount of household recyclables accepted. The following items are



recyclable: Cans, including aluminum, steel, or tin; clear, brown, or green glass bottles and jars; #1 through #7 plastics; paper, including junk mail, telephone books, catalogs, white paper, wrapping paper, magazines, and newspapers; and flattened boxes, including cereal boxes, corrugated cardboard, and other cardboard boxes. Please note that all items must fit into your recycle bucket. Cardboard must be cut into pieces no larger than two feet by two feet, and bagged or bundled into stacks no larger than one foot thick.

The following items are **NOT** recyclable, and should be disposed of with regular trash: 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, and mirrors; crystal; ceramics; aerosol paint cans; ovenware; plastics without identifying recycling numbers; styrofoam; and empty oil cans or bottles.

For more information on recycling requirements, contact 610-696-5266, ext. 4305 or email lcovatta@westgoshen.org.

Multi-unit residences: Must provide written recycling program materials to occupants with instructions about 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 following recycling materials at least once per month: 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 into direct contact with food, and noncorrugated cardboard; and any other recyclables determined by the apartment complex or condominium association. Recycling containers must be easily accessible

and suitable for the type of material that is being collected.

Businesses: Must provide written recycling program materials to occupants and employees with instructions about what materials are to be recycled, how the materials are to be prepared, and how the collection system works. The property owner, operator, or administrator must provide for collection of the following recycling materials at least once per month: Computer paper and white bond/copier/letterhead paper; corrugated paper; and aluminum and steel or bimetallic cans. 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.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Single family homes, multi-unit

residences: The Spring 2014 issue of the West Goshen Township Newsletter will have a list of dates and locations to dispose of the following items with the Chester County Solid Waste Authority:

- Paint products: Oil-based paints; turpentine and thinners; stains, varnishes, and shellacs; strippers and removers; wallpaper cement; and adhesives and solvents.
- Outdoor products: Pool chemicals; weed killers; septic tank degreasers; asphalt sealers; caulking compounds; joint compounds; rodent poisons; and roof cements.
- Automotive products: Grease and rust solvents; fuel additives; carburetor cleaners; transmission and brake fluid; antifreeze; gasoline and gas/oil mixtures; and car (lead acid), truck, motorcycle, or marine batteries.

- Household products: drain openers; rug, wool, and metal cleaners; mothballs/flakes; spot remover; rechargeable batteries; kerosene; and toilet bowl cleaners.
- Other products: acids, caustics, and solvents; flammables and oxidizers; lead and mercury products; pesticides; organic peroxide; reactive metals; and propane cylinders under twenty pounds.
- Home electronics: CPU's; laptop computers; monitors; printers; copiers; televisions; answering machines' camcorders; cellular phones; docking stations; electric typewriters; fax machines; microwaves; pagers; radios; remote controls; gaming consoles and controllers; stereos; tape and CD players; telephones; toner and ink cartridges; VCR's; DVD players; and testing equipment.

The following materials will not be accepted: Infectious and medical waste; explosives and ammunitions; appliances and white goods; latex and water based paints; pressurized CFAs and HCFs; commercial and industrial waste; radioactive waste; non-propane gas cylinders or propane cylinders over twenty pounds; PCB's; freon; asbestos; alkaline batteries; and unidentified waste. Tires and used motor oils are not accepted at household hazardous waste collections, but may be recycled at select automotive businesses. Call the Chester County Solid Waste Authority at 610-273-3771, ext. 228 for recycling locations of automotive-related materials.

Single family homes, multi-unit residences, and businesses:

Items labeled with any of the following words can not be disposed of with regular trash: CAUTION, TOXIC, DANGER, FLAMMABLE, WARNING, CORROSIVE, EXPLOSIVE, REACTIVE, COMBUSTIBLE, POISONOUS, or HAZARDOUS. ★

Greening West Goshen

"Greening West Goshen" offers environmentally sound practices for homeowners, businesses, gardeners, and property managers. If you have a green tip you would like to share, forward it to Newsletter Editor Ken Lehr at klehr@westgoshen.org.

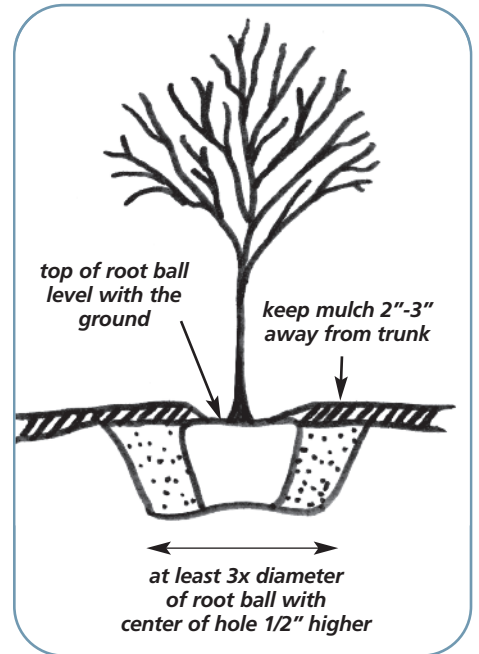
Fall Tree Planting Guide

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs. The cooler temperatures and wet conditions of early autumn are ideal for new plantings. The stress of transplanting a tree (which may lose up to 90% of its root system in the transplant process) is greatly reduced. As tree shoot growth halts with the colder weather and plants go dormant, less water is needed. Root systems have a chance to develop before spring growth and summer heat set in. When leaves unfurl and expand in the spring, the increased roots are better able to access the reservoir of water, making trees planted in the fall better equipped to deal with heat and drought in the following season. Maple, buckeye, horse chestnut, alder, catalpa, hackberry, hawthorn, ash, honey locust, crabapple, spruce, pine, sycamore, linden, and elm especially react well to fall plantings.

Before planting, it is always safest to call 811 first to detect underground utilities. (See www.westgoshen.org/PDFs/Newsletters/WGTSummer08.pdf for more information.) When planting a tree, remember not to dig the hole too deep. If the tree root is balled, aim to have the top of the ball be level with the ground. Dig a wide hole—at least three times the diameter of the root ball. Have the center of the hole be about 1/2 inch higher than

the edge of the hole, so the root ball will not "drown" and the base of the trunk will not rot from sitting in water. This will also cause the roots to extend further to absorb water the tree needs—thus increasing your root growth. Avoid using commercial fertilizers. Fill the hole loosely with backfill. You may want to use a mixture of 2/3 soil and 1/3 compost or manure, especially if planting fruit or nut trees. Place shredded hardwood or leaf mulch around the tree, making sure to keep it two to three inches away from the trunk to prevent rot. Water fifteen gallons per week during the first year. If necessary to stake the tree, make sure lines are tied loosely to the trunk and do not dig into the bark or tighten around the tree. Remove stakes after the first year. Reapply mulch as needed.

Trees provide numerous ecological and economical benefits to property owners. By converting carbon dioxide into oxygen, trees reduce greenhouse gases. They also absorb other harmful gases such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone. By planting trees near your house, you can reduce noise pollution and increase privacy, and the shade provided by trees can cool your home and reduce air conditioning costs. Trees placed upwind from your house can act as windbreaks and reduce home heating bills up to 30%. Trees help prevent soil erosion and stormwater runoff and, as they mature, slow water evaporation from thirsty lawns. Trees provide habitat for wildlife and food for birds. Studies have shown



that houses landscaped with trees have increased property values, and businesses landscaped with trees are likely to draw more visitors than those without.

Trees can also provide beneficial psychological effects. Patients with a view of trees from their windows heal faster and with fewer complications than those who can't view trees during recuperation. Children with ADHD show fewer symptoms when they have regular access to nature. Tree-lined neighborhoods and homes have lower crime rates than those without trees. The color green has been shown to have a calming effect on the human brain. ★



For more information about the benefits of trees and advice about tree planting, visit the following sites:

- www.arboday.org •
- <http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/HomeownersGuideSWMgmt.pdf> •
- www.phillywatersheds.org/doc/BYB/Tip_Sheet_4_Tree_And_Shrub_Planting.pdf •
- www.treevitalize.net/ • www.wikihow.com/Plant-a-Tree •

Information for this article was also provided by the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association.

Put that Old Christmas Tree to Good Use



Don't throw out your Christmas tree. Let West Goshen

Township mulch it, turning your old tree into useful woodchips instead of taking up valuable landfill space.

West Goshen Township offers two ways for residents to dispose of their Christmas trees in an environmentally sensible fashion. Township residents can drop trees off at the designated area of the West Goshen Community Park main parking lot between December 26, 2013 and January 20, 2014, or place them curbside for collection on Saturday, January 18, 2014. Anyone illegally dumping additional trees or other items will be prosecuted. Trees disposed of by either method will be mulched.

For both dropoff and curbside disposal, please make sure to remove all tinsel, decorations, and plastic bags from trees. Wreaths will not be accepted. ★

How to Dispose of Leaves

DO Compost leaves whenever possible.

DO West Goshen homeowners may place leaves in biodegradable bags or trash cans curbside for collection on Saturday November 16th, Saturday December 7th, or Saturday December 21st. There is no limit to the number of bags or cans for leaf collections. Small branches or twigs that fit into a paper yard waste bag may be included.

DO Businesses and institutional properties are responsible for arranging for their own leaf disposal with their trash haulers.

DON'T Place leaves in plastic bags. **Leaves will not be collected from plastic bags.**

DON'T Burn leaves. Leaves and yard wastes are not permitted to be disposed of by burning in West Goshen Township in compliance with Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code.

DON'T Rake leaves into streets. This is very dangerous and can affect traffic.

DON'T Deposit leaves into streams, ponds, or stream beds. This can cause flooding and pollution of the watershed. ★

Volunteers Sought for New Stormwater Authority

The West Goshen Township Board of Supervisors is looking at creating a new Stormwater Authority. Township residents interested in serving on the Authority may contact Township Manager Casey LaLonde at 610-696-5266 or via email at twp@westgoshen.org.

Seniors May Be Eligible for Trash Rebates

You may be eligible to participate in West Goshen Township's Trash Rebate Program if you meet the following qualifications:

- You must be 65 or older as of December 31, 2012.
- Your 2012 household income, including 50% of Social Security payments, must equal \$35,000 or less.
- You must have proof that you have received in 2013 a Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate check for the year 2012.
- You submit a completed Application Form for the Trash Rebate Program (available at the West Goshen Township Administration Building) by October 31, 2013.

West Goshen Township Trash Rebate checks will be mailed in December 2013. ★



Part of Our Community



One in four adults—approximately 61,500,000 Americans—experience mental illness in a given year

One in five children between the ages of thirteen and eighteen experience serious mental disorders in a given year. For ages eight through fifteen, the estimate is 13%.

Approximately 2,600,000 American adults suffer from schizophrenia.

6,100,000 American adults live with bipolar disorder.

Almost fifteen million American adults live with major depression.

42,000,000 American adults live with anxiety disorders such as panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, or phobias.

These statistics by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health show how prevalent mental illnesses are in society. Yet, for those suffering with a mental illness and their families, finding help can be difficult in a culture that stigmatizes abnormalities.

Since 1979, the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) has served as a grass roots organization dedicated to improving the lives of families who have relatives with mental illness. Services offered by NAMI target individuals with mental illness, relatives and friends, mental health professionals, and all who share NAMI's vision and mission. For residents of Chester County, their local affiliate, NAMI Pennsylvania of Chester County (also known as NAMI Chester County), is located right in West Goshen Township.

NAMI Chester County strives to overcome the stigma associated with mental illness and connect individuals and their families with needed services through education, advocacy, and support.

EDUCATION

Many people dealing with mental health issues for the first time have no idea where to turn to for help.

"80% of Americans with treatable mental disorders do not receive treatment," says Debbie Thompson, President of NAMI Chester County. "A lot of it is due to families feeling isolated, guilty, fearful, or ashamed. It's not something people talk about in polite society."

"Part of the stigma is, 'Who is it safe to talk to?'"

Traci Behring, Community Liaison Consultant with the Chester County Department of Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, cites the prevalence of mental illness and points to NAMI Chester County as a good place to turn for information. "If it isn't someone related to you, most likely everyone will have someone you know affected. It could be a neighbor, it could be a coworker, it could be a friend, and NAMI is a great place to call to get plugged in."

Thompson estimates her office receives 170 to 200 phone calls and about 375 emails per month. "The most common question we get is 'Where do I go for help?'"

For immediate assistance, Thompson can refer people to Valley Creek Crisis Intervention. NAMI Chester County works closely with the county's Department of Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, which can connect people with numerous county services.

"There's a lot of great things going on in Chester County," says Thompson. It's a sentiment shared by Behringer: "In all of Chester County, we are very fortunate. We are a county rich in resources, and NAMI is one of those resources."

NAMI has a number of programs for families trying to come to terms with mental illness.

NAMI basics offers a series of six 2½ hour classes for parents of children and adolescents dealing with mental illness. Classes are taught by parents or other caregivers who have lived through similar experiences with their own children.

Peer-to-Peer is a ten-week course taught by NAMI trained peer mentors focusing on a holistic approach to recovery through a combination of lecture, discussion, interactive exercises, and stress management techniques.

Family-to-Family provides insights into, and resolution of, the profound concerns experienced by families, close relatives, and friends as they strive to cope with the realities of severe mental illness. Caregivers in the twelve-week course learn a wide range of information about serious mental illness and gain a better understanding of how living with these conditions affects their loved ones.

"I had a person say 'Wow! Being in this class is empowering. I don't feel like I'm all alone anymore,'" says Thompson, who also points out another benefit of the classes: "It's giving family members the vocabulary to talk with the medical professionals."

NAMI Chester County relies upon volunteers who have had similar life experiences to teach these courses. According to Thompson, most volunteers are family members and friends of mental health service consumers. "We have teachers, college professors, financial advisors, lawyers, ministers. Your credentials matter, but not as much as your lived experiences."

Thompson emphasizes that all of the programs NAMI offers are free of charge.

In 2013, to better inform the community at large about mental illness, NAMI Chester County started an educational program called "Building Bridges of Hope." Volunteers from NAMI Chester County bring a PowerPoint presentation into church communities and answer questions related to NAMI and mental illnesses. The program has been

presented at the Southeast Conference of United Methodist Women. The idea is to make NAMI known to church leaders and to get the community talking about mental illness, to reduce the stigma, and to help people come to terms with mental illness as a medical condition.

"Most families turn to churches who may not know more about mental illness than the families," says Thompson, adding, "Mental illness affects the entire community. Everyone needs to be aware. That's why we have targeted outreach to the religious communities."

By educating people about mental illness, NAMI Chester County hopes not just to reduce the stigma, but to get people important information they need to get help. For example, Debbie Thompson cites that most people are familiar with depression, but "There are many people who don't realize how many types of depression there are. If depression lasts more than two weeks, it may lead to more serious kinds of depression. A lot of it can be treated if caught early." Recognition and treatment of mental illness is only the first step towards overcoming these diseases. Thompson indicates that it can take six months to several years just to get a proper diagnosis and treatment plan. "The sooner you could treat it, the better."

SUPPORT

NAMI recognizes the importance of its classes being taught by peers who have had similar experiences.

"We are doing our fall Family-to-Family class right now. We have seventeen families who think they're all alone and suddenly they find there's sixteen other families like them," says Thompson.

"NAMI is geared to help not just the individual, but the family as well," says Traci Behringer. "The families often feel lost since the individual gets the treatment."

Families, friends, and mental health service consumers can meet other people sharing similar challenges as well as those who have learned to deal with similar



Volunteers participating in the NAMI Chester County Recovery Walk at West Goshen Community Park on May 13, 2013.

issues. Support groups meet monthly at various locations throughout the county for family members to gather in a casual environment. For those seeking more structure, monthly meetings give members a chance to gather and learn more about topics related to mental illness. For those who prefer to deal with questions more independently, NAMI Chester County has a library people can use to explore on their own.

ADVOCACY

In order to make sure services are available to those who need them, NAMI Chester County sometimes must take a political stance.

"Mental illness is a political issue," says Thompson. "The community needs to know that mental health services are the first ones cut when the economy is in trouble."

Often, well-intentioned laws end up creating barriers to mental health services. In 1996, Congress passed The Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to allow one medical entity to transfer information confidentially to another medical entity. Most patients are familiar with HIPAA statements signed

at doctor's offices, assuring the confidentiality of their medical records. However, since the enactment of HIPAA, family members trying to get help for their loved ones often get shut out, unable to share information that may help in a patient's recovery.

"NAMI is advocating HIPAA and FERPA (The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) laws get looked at and revised so they are not stumbling blocks to families getting help," says Thompson. "We'd like to get a lively discussion with doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers."

Thompson points out that NAMI Chester County's advocacy can extend beyond governments. "Not all insurance plans cover mental health equally. Families have to go through all these obstacles at the same time they're dealing with a very ill family member."

Ideally, Debbie Thompson hopes to see people talking more about mental illness, making themselves more informed, accepting it as a treatable physical condition, and joining the effort to remove the stigma and advocate care and treatment for those afflicted.

"I really think the general message is 'Get involved!'" ★

To visit NAMI's website, go to www.nami.org. For more information about NAMI Pennsylvania of Chester County, visit www.nami.org/MSTemplate.cfm?Site=NAMI_PA,_Chester_County, call 484-947-5643, or email namichesco@comcast.net.

For the Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline, call 610-280-3270 or toll free at 1-877-918-2100. The Hotline serves Chester County residents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are confidential and may be anonymous.

Curfew Ordinance Regarding Minors

The Juvenile and Community Relations Division of the West Goshen Police Department reminds children under 18 years old and their parents that West Goshen Township has a curfew for minors. Chapter 34 of the West Goshen Township Code states:

"It shall be unlawful for any minor who has not attained the 18th anniversary of the date of his birth to remain in or upon any street, public place or any establishment in the Township of West Goshen between the hours of 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM of the following day, prevailing time, except that on Fridays and Saturdays and all nights between June 15 and September 15, inclusive, the hours shall be 11:00 PM to 5:00 AM, provided that this section shall not apply to any minor accompanied by a parent, guardian or an adult 21 years of age or over responsible for the care and custody of the person of such minor or to a minor upon an errand or other legitimate business directed by such minor's parent or guardian or to any minor who is engaged in gainful, lawful employment during the curfew hours, provided that said minor carries identification and evidence in writing to this effect". ★

ID Update for Voters

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 5th between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM. Poll workers will ask for identification, but voters will still be able to cast a ballot without photo ID. For problems voting at the polls or questions on Election Day, please contact the Chester County Department of Voter Services at 610-344-6410. ★

CDC Guidelines for A Safe Halloween

West Goshen Township does not establish a date for Trick-or-Treating. Most parents choose to celebrate Halloween on October 31st. Please check with your neighbors for a mutually agreeable date for Trick-or-Treating.



West Goshen Township recommends parents make sure their children adhere to the following Centers for Disease Control guidelines to ensure a happy and **SAFE HALLOWEEN**.

Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always **WALK** and don't run from house to house.

Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.

Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes. ★





ROONIE SAYS...

The Summer 2013 issue of the West Goshen Township Newsletter (www.westgoshe.org/PDFs/Newsletters/WGTSummer13.pdf) featured information from the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) about dogs who may benefit from a visit to a dogpark and dogs who are not ideal candidates for such a setting. If you decide to send your dog to Roonie's Canine Corner for the first time, the ASPCA offers the following advice:

Go Alone and Observe

It's important to visit the dogpark a few times without your dog, just to check it out in advance.

- Note the park features. Are you comfortable with them? Do they meet your needs? Also read any posted rules and make sure you agree with them. Can you bring treats and toys with you? Does your dog need a special license? Do you need to pay a fee to use the dogpark?
- Go to the park at different times, on different days. Note the best days and times of day to visit. If the park's always packed on weekend mornings or weekdays after work, for example, you can take your dog at off-peak hours instead.
- Observe the park-goers. Are people actively supervising their dogs or are they letting them run amok while they chat and sip lattes? Does anyone in particular seem to have trouble effectively controlling his or her dog? Are there specific dogs who consistently play too roughly or fight with other dogs? If you identify people or dogs who seem to cause problems, you can avoid visiting the park when they're around.

Prepare in Advance

- Think about what you'll need to bring. Find some comfortable clothes and shoes to wear. Put together a

dog-park kit that includes essentials, like a leash, water for you and your dog, bags for clean-up, toys, and treats.

- Teaching your dog a few key skills helps keep her safe and contributes to a more enjoyable dog-park experience for all park users. One essential skill is a reliable recall. Sit, down, stay, drop it, leave it and settle are also very useful. Don't hesitate to contact a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT) for group or private classes in dog training.
- It will help to train yourself, too. Learning about canine body language and communication will help you interpret what's going on during play and prevent conflict before it escalates to a fight.

When You Get There

Keep the following recommendations in mind to minimize your risks and maximize your fun.

- Before you enter the park, check out the crowd for a few minutes. Do the dogs seem to be romping happily? If so, let the fun begin! If, on the other hand, you notice canine troublemakers bullying or fighting with other dogs—or if you simply feel uneasy about letting your dog play with a particular group of dogs—plan to come back at a later time.
- When a new dog arrives at a dog park, the other dogs often rush over to investigate. This sudden flood of attention can overwhelm newcomers. To avoid a canine mob scene, linger outside the park for a few minutes and let other dogs notice your dog's presence outside the park's enclosure. When their excitement about her arrival dissipates, you can enter the park together. After your dog has played a while and become part of the group inside the park, don't let her become a mob member. Instead, call her to you when you notice

newcomers arriving.

- Keep your attention on your dog and her playmates so that you're aware of what she's doing at all times. If you see signs that play's not going well, you can step in to stop interaction before things get out of hand.
- Avoid canine clumping. When a pair or group of dogs plays nonstop for more than a few minutes, playmates can get overexcited and tension can arise. Instead of standing in one spot during your entire visit, move to a new area of the park every few minutes. Encourage your dog to follow you when you walk to a new spot. Praise and reward her for keeping track of where you are and for coming when you call.
- If at any point you think your dog might not be having fun, take her home. If she's interacting with another dog, don't hesitate to ask that dog's pet parent to help you end the play session. It's better to call it quits early so your dog still has a good experience overall. You don't want her to decide that she doesn't enjoy playing with other dogs anymore.

© 2013. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). All Rights Reserved.

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. ★



—..— Enjoy the Holidays —..—

...with the West Goshen Township Park and Recreation Department!

The West Goshen Park and Recreation Department offers West Goshen residents four ways to celebrate the holidays this December!

Holiday Decorations Workshop

Learn how to design your own wreath or centerpiece to bring home for the holidays at the West Goshen Township Administration Building's Community Room on Monday, December 16th or Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 PM. Centerpieces cost \$10 per person, or for \$15 you can decorate a wreath. We provide instruction and supplies; you provide the creative finishing touch. Advance registration is required.



Holiday Breakfast

The West Goshen Park and Recreation Department's Annual Holiday Breakfast will be held at Timothy's in the Parkway Center on Saturday, December 21st between 9:00 and 10:30 AM. This popular annual event will feature a hot buffet breakfast, gingerbread men for children to decorate, and quality time with Santa Claus himself. Cost of the Holiday Breakfast is just **\$5 per person** and is limited to residents of West Goshen Township.



New York City for the Holidays

Take a luxury motorcoach from the West Goshen Municipal Complex to Times Square on Saturday, December 7th and see the Big Apple all decorated for the holidays! Spend the afternoon touring, dining, shopping, seeing a show, or however else you please! Cost of this trip is \$35 per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation and driver tip. Space is available on a first-paid, first-served basis.



Radio City Music Hall

See the Rockettes in the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, tour midtown Manhattan on your own, and conclude your day with a family-style Italian dinner at Carmine's Restaurant on Monday, December 9th. Cost of this trip is \$159 per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation from the West Goshen Municipal Complex, a ticket to the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, dinner at Carmine's, and driver and server tips. Please note that the Sunday, November 24th trip mentioned the Summer 2013 issue of The West Goshen Township Newsletter has filled.



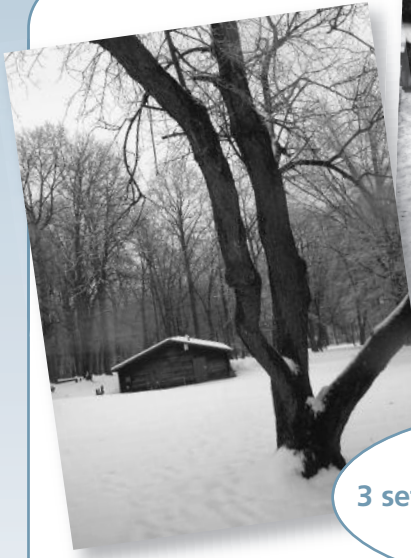
For information or registration for any of these events, please visit http://www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Park_Rec/Park_Rec.cfm or scan the appropriate QR codes above. ★

Happy Anniversary Fame Fire Co.!

Fame Fire Company celebrated its 175th anniversary this year by hosting the Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania in September, including a parade on September 28th. West Goshen Township congratulates and thanks the volunteer members of Fame Fire Company for their years of dedicated service to the community.

Photos by Nozzle Nut Photography





Each pack contains
3 sets of 4 different designs
(12 cards total).

Show your Pride in West Goshen Township and Support the Friends of West Goshen Parks!

The Friends of West Goshen Parks have commissioned a series of holiday greeting cards featuring winter scenes from Coopersmith Park, Barker Park, and West Goshen Community Park. You can show your pride in West Goshen Township and help support the Friends of West Goshen Parks by ordering a pack of greeting cards containing three sets of four different designs (total of twelve cards) and matching envelopes. Choose from blank notecards or greeting cards with the message "Happy Holidays."

Cards may be purchased at the West Goshen Township Administration Building, Mondays through Thursdays, 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM for \$10 per pack of twelve. If you'd like to order by mail, complete and return the form below with \$12 (\$10 plus \$2 postage) to: The Friends of West Goshen Parks, P.O. Box 441, West Chester, PA 19381. **Cards must be ordered by December 2, 2013 to ensure they arrive in time for you to mail out before Christmas.** Anyone unable to purchase cards during regular business hours is invited to do so on Thursday, November 7th between 7:00 and 8:00 PM at the West Goshen Township Administration Building.

The Friends of West Goshen Parks Holiday Greeting Cards Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Notify me of upcoming West Goshen events via email at: _____

Total
Quantity (\$12.00/pack)

Cards with message "Happy Holidays!" _____

Blank notecards _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Please make checks payable to "The Friends of West Goshen Parks"

WEST GOSHEN



Township Newsletter • Volume 23 No. 2
Fall 2013

1025 Paoli Pike
West Chester, PA 19380
Mondays - Thursdays
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
610.696.5266
(fax) 610.429.0616
twp@westgoshen.org
www.westgoshen.org

Presort Std.
U.S. Postage PAID
West Chester, PA
Permit #79

TOWNSHIP HOLIDAYS

Township offices will be closed
on Thursday, November 28th in
celebration of Thanksgiving, on
Wednesday, December 25th for
Christmas, and on New Year's
Day, Wednesday, January 1st.

Trash will be collected on Friday,
November 29th instead of
Thursday, November 28th, on
Friday, December 27th instead of
Thursday, December 26th, and
on Friday, January 3rd instead of
Thursday, January 2nd.

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