

WEST GOSHEN



Fall 2011

Township Newsletter • Volume 21 No. 2

Stay Safe Before, During and After a Storm

September brought some severe storms to West Goshen Township. Here are some "Before, During and After" storm safety tips for thunderstorms, hurricanes, blizzards, or tornadoes.

Before a Storm

- Store all outdoor furniture and objects. These items become projectiles during storms.
- If your home is prone to flooding, consider moving items to an upper floor and / or evacuating to a safer location.
- Stock up on several days of water, non-perishable food, and batteries. A severe storm, hurricane, or blizzard may make travel impossible and the local grocery store may be closed.
- Prepare for a power outage. Hurricane Irene proved that electricity service may be out for several days. Stock up on batteries, buy a hand cranked radio, fill up on propane for the grill, and be prepared for several days of no electricity. Dry ice or regular ice may be in limited supply, so consume perishable food first, followed by non-perishable food.

During the Storm

- Stay tuned to local news channels by television or radio for weather updates.
- Call 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Check on family and neighbors.
- Stay off the roads. Travel only for emergency reasons.
- Stay inside your home. This is the safest place during a storm.
- Do not operate generators inside your home or garage. Generators



must be operated outside due to the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Generators, by Township Code, are allowed to be operated on a constant basis during storms and other emergencies and are not subject to Noise Ordinance regulations.
- Do not wade through standing water, as it may contain sewage or other chemicals.
- Do not walk or drive through flooded areas. A few inches of moving water can carry away a person or vehicle. "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

After the Storm

- Inspect your home for storm damage.
- Contact your insurance company if damage occurred during the storm.
- Stay off the roads until cleanup efforts are concluded.

Downed Power Line Safety During and After Storms

In the aftermath of a major storm, be aware of hazards presented by downed power lines. If you see a power line on

New Chief Is a Familiar Face



The West Goshen Township Board of Supervisors has appointed Joseph Gleason as Chief of Police.

"He's been a very dedicated officer for thirty years," says Edward G. Meakim, Jr., chairman of the West Goshen Board of Supervisors. "He's personable, knowledgeable, and ready to help whenever possible. I was so happy to promote him."

Gleason came to the West Goshen Police Department in 1981 after serving for a year in the Parkside Borough Police Department in Delaware County. In June 1982, he attended the Northwestern University program of study for traffic investigation in Illinois. He was subsequently promoted to Sergeant in 1996, Lieutenant in 1998, and Captain in 2007. In 1999, Gleason attended the prestigious and selective FBI Academy in Virginia.

As Chief, Gleason plans to continue to foster an atmosphere of service for which the West Goshen Police Department has become known. "I am proud to say that West Goshen officers have, for years, had the reputation of going above and beyond," said Gleason in an address to West Goshen residents on the Township's website. "That is what we pride ourselves on and that is what we will continue to do."

Gleason replaces Chief Michael Carroll, who had led the West Goshen Police Department since 1988. ★

Continued on page 8...

Subdivision and Land Development Report

The following plans have been approved for development:

209 Carter Drive

(Matlack Industrial Park)

Location: North side of Carter Drive, off of Matlack Street

The land development proposes to construct a 3,002 square foot office/warehouse addition for Deco Sales Company.

Johnson Subdivision

Location: 937 & 935 Prichard Lane

Lot-line change to maintain existing uses.

Olsen Subdivision

Location: 1114 & 1116 Phoenixville Pike

Lot-line change to maintain existing uses.

The following plans remain under review:

North Campus District Geothermal Pump House – Phase II

Location: 114 West Rosedale Avenue

The plan proposes the construction of

a 2,418 square foot utility building to serve as a geothermal pump house to augment West Chester University's geothermal system.

Pottstown Pike Subdivision

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

The plan will create a fourteen lot single family detached dwelling subdivision.

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 Bypass and Phoenixville Pike

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 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.

Chester County Hospital: West Pavilion

Location: 701 East Marshall Street

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

Location: 415 Goshen Road

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6 year elected term

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Dr. Robert S. White, *Vice-Chairman*
Patricia B. McIlvaine, *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*
Kent Wise, *Parks Superintendent*

WEST GOSHEN POLICE

1025 Paoli Pike, W.C., 19380
Police 911 or 610.696.7400
Fax 610.696.3935
police@westgoshen.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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THE FRIENDS OF WEST GOSHEN PARKS, INC.

Non-profit group assisting the Park and Recreation Board; meets bimonthly
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Mary Ann Fell, *Vice-President*
Mary Bleecker, *Secretary*
Marilyn Reich, *Treasurer*
Gerald L. Napiecek, *Member*
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William Gale, *Secretary*
Louis J. Mayer, *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

ROAD RULES

Study Shows Driving and Multi-Tasking Don't Mix

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.

Multi-tasking is a fact of life—we all face constant demands for our time, and we all have to juggle more now than ever before. Unfortunately, many people try to multi-task while driving, which is never a good idea. Distracted driving contributes to up to 8,000 crashes each day.



A 2010 study by Jason M. Watson and David L. Strayer of the University of Utah has reconfirmed that our brains are simply not wired to multi-task. Being distracted behind the wheel for even just a few seconds greatly increases your chance of a crash. For example, using a cellular phone while driving quadruples your risk of crashing. Eating, smoking, or adjusting music can be just as dangerous as texting, emailing, or talking on a cell phone.

Passengers are one of the most frequently reported causes of distraction, with young children being four times more distracting than adults, and infants being eight times more distracting.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety offers the following tips to minimize distractions while driving:

- Plan ahead so you're aware of directions and traffic conditions before you get on the road.
- Turn off your cell phone before you drive so you won't be tempted to use it while on the road. Pull over to a safe place before turning it back on.

- Prepare the kids safely buckled and situated with snacks and entertainment prior to driving. Make sure any pets are secured before driving. If children or pets need attention during the trip, make sure to pull off the road to a safe spot first.
- Eat meals and snacks before getting on the road, or stop to eat if you need a bite during your trip.
- Store loose gear and possessions to prevent rolling objects distracting you while you drive.
- Adjust seat positions, climate controls, sound systems, and other devices before you drive. Keep your windshield clean, and remove any dangling objects that may block your view.
- Brush your hair, shave, put on makeup, and tie your necktie before getting in the car or when you reach your destination.
- Stay focused on the road while driving.
- When you're on the road as a passenger or a pedestrian, take a look around and honestly evaluate whether you engage in poor driving behaviors that worry you when observed in other passengers or pedestrians.
- Consider improving your ability to respond quickly. AAA recommends practicing with DriveSharp, a computer program proven to improve reaction time and stopping distances. ★

SOURCE: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, www.aaafoundation.org

Public Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors (7:00 PM, second Wednesday of each month, except where otherwise indicated): November 9; December 14; January 11; Annual Organization Meeting—Monday January 2.

Park and Recreation Board (7:00 PM, third Wednesday of each month; no meeting in December): November 16; January 18.

Planning Commission (7:00 PM third Tuesday of each month): November 15; December 20; January 17.

Sewer Authority (7:30 PM, first Wednesday of each month): November 2; December 7; January 4.

Zoning Hearing Board (7:00 PM, first Thursday after the second Wednesday each month, except where otherwise noted): November 10; December 15; January 12.

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.westgosheh.org for updates.

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.

LEAF COLLECTION DATES

West Goshen Township arranges for the leaves of Township homeowners to be collected and composted each year, thus avoiding needlessly dumping natural, renewable resources into additional landfill space.

Leaves will be collected in West Goshen Township on the following Saturdays this fall:

- November 12, 2011
- December 3, 2011
- December 17, 2011

Leaves must be placed in biodegradable bags or trash cans. Leaves will not be collected from plastic bags. There is no limit to the number of bags or cans for leaf collections. Small twigs or branches that fit into a paper yard waste bag may be included.

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, and may not be raked into streets or deposited into streams, ponds, or stream beds.

BOX ELDER POND REVITALIZED

Three years ago, Ray Halvorsen, West Goshen Township's Public Works Director, needed direction. The Township's Box Elder Pond, located in Box Elder Park south of West Chester East High School, needed help, and it needed it fast.

The pond, partly mowed to the edge, the rest bordered by invasive species, was covered with a thick mat of filamentous algae. Fish huddled at the surface to gasp for air. Geese trotted easily in and out, contributing to the buildup of nutrients to the pond. The Township wanted to avoid costly dredging.

Halvorsen attended a pond workshop hosted jointly by Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association and Willistown Conservation Trust. The two pond experts from the program, Dr. Win Fairchild of West Chester University, and John Munroe of Munroe Associates, plus Aquascapes Unlimited, a wetland and pond restoration specialist, provided assessments and a planting design for the pond.

The West Goshen Public Works Department set about the task of cleaning up and restoring the pond's buffer. Thick mats of algae were removed manually. Invasive species such as multiflora rose were ripped out. Native shrubs and plugs including "emergent" species like arrow arum, blue flag iris, and flowering



pickerel weed that like to grow in the water's edge were selected by Aquascapes and planted by Public Works employees.

Now in its third year since the pond's cleanup, algae is nowhere in sight. The pond buffer is a happy jumble of aster, joe pye weed, rushes, and false sunflowers. Blooming native hibiscus (swamp mallow) bloomed all summer long. Public Works employees have continued to remove invasive weeds.

Many forms of wildlife now call the pond home, including turtles, who sun themselves on a recently installed wooden turtle raft, and herons. West Goshen residents can enjoy the serene scene from park benches next to the pond. ★

*By Anne Murphy, Executive Director,
CRC Watersheds Association.
www.crcwatersheds.org*

Reducing PAHs Through a Better Choice of Sealants

In December 2010, the U. S. Geological Survey released a study tracking the pollutant polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in 40 lakes across the country.

According to the study, "PAHs are an environmental health concern because several are probable human carcinogens, they are toxic to fish and other aquatic life, and their concentrations have been increasing in urban lakes in recent decades."

The study found that coal-tar-based pavement sealant is the largest source of PAHs, accounting for half of the pollutant making its way into our waterways.

Because coal-tar-emulsion sealcoat has 1,000 times the PAH level of asphalt-emulsion products, the simplest step property owners can take in reducing the amount of PAHs polluting our waterways is to purchase and apply asphalt-emulsion sealants. Other alternatives include installing different surfaces like gravel or pavers, both of which have the added benefit of being permeable to rainwater, so they won't contribute to the flow of stormwater runoff. ★

To avoid coal-tar-based sealants, check the label or ask the contractor sealing your driveway or parking lot to make sure you are using an asphalt-emulsion sealcoat.

Visit www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2651 to view the U.S. Geological Survey report, or go to http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/asphalt_sealers.html for more information about the environmental effects of parking lot sealcoats.

"TRASH TALK"

Your Guide to Waste and Recycling in West Goshen Township

Keep Current on Trash, Recycling, and Household Hazardous Waste

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.westgoshe.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 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.

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.

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 owner, operator, or administrator of business properties 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.

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 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 Allied Waste service at 610-869-2222.

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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

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

Continued on page 6...



Part of Our Community



Astronomy is one of the oldest fields of scientific study. Bone carvings dated from 30,000 BC indicate an attempt by early humans to keep

track of lunar cycles. Ancient societies in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Mesoamerica, China, and England expended great resources to build large structures dedicated to the science. For much of human history, knowledge of astronomy was crucial for determining time, for navigation, and for religious observances.

Today, people still look to the stars to learn more about the universe and our place in it. Since 1993, the Chester County Astronomical Society has provided county residents with a network to share an enthusiasm for study of the stars and planets, learn more about the latest advances in the ancient science, and to gain hands-on experience with astronomical observation.

Founding member Edwin Lurcott says the Society was started by a half-dozen amateur astronomy enthusiasts who wanted to get together to share their avocation. Today, the group claims over sixty members who meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Merion Science Center at West Chester University, hold monthly observation sessions at the Myrick Conservancy Center of the Brandywine

Valley Association, and attend special events such as star parties. Membership meetings usually include a speaker and a video presentation of recent advances in astronomy. Membership meetings and monthly observations are open to the public.

According to Lurcott, the Chester County Astronomical Society offers programs to scout troops, local schools, and other civic groups interested in learning more about astronomy. The Society has partnered with the West Goshen Township Park and Recreation Department to offer Township residents guided viewings of a lunar eclipse and the planets Jupiter and Saturn.

“Our focus is outreach and education,” says Dave Hockenberry, the Society’s Program Chair. “That’s the hallmark of our club.”

Since 2010, the Chester County Astronomical Society has partnered with the West Chester University Geology and Astronomy Department to bring Project ASTRO to local schools. Project ASTRO is a National Program that partners astronomers and teachers to bring hands-on learning about astronomy to the classroom. According to Chester County Astronomical Society Education Chair Kathy Buczinski, volunteer astronomers are trained in activities that meet the Pennsylvania

state science standards and visit each participating classroom numerous times throughout the school year. In the West Chester Area School District, Pennwood Elementary School currently partners with the Chester County Astronomical Society in Project ASTRO.

“Astronomy clubs like this are extremely important,” says Hockenberry.

“Professional astronomers are too weighted down with research for public outreach. There are far more astronomy clubs than professional astronomers.”

Hockenberry emphasizes the significance of the Society’s outreach efforts: “It’s something that’s not only fun, but really important for society.”

The next meeting of the Chester County Astronomical Society will be at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 in Room 113 of the Merion Science Center at West Chester University. Observations are scheduled for Friday, November 25th and Friday, December 23rd at the Myrick Conservancy Center of the Brandywine Valley Association. For more information about the Chester County Astronomical Society, visit www.ccas.us. ★

“Part of Our Community” highlights local businesses, organizations, and people who make a difference in the community. To submit ideas for future columns, please email Newsletter Editor Ken Lehr at klehr@westgoshen.org.

“TRASH TALK”

Continued from page 5

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.

Single family homes and multi-unit residences: Check back in the Spring 2012 issue of the West Goshen Township Newsletter for 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.

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. ★



ROONIE SAYS...

Pet Owners Should Know the "Scoop on Poop"

Pet owners are aware of the need to immediately clean up waste their dogs leave behind. Here are some of the parasites that can be spread from pet waste.

Roundworms: Roundworms pose a significant risk to humans. Contact with contaminated soil or feces can result in human ingestion and infection. Roundworm eggs may accumulate in significant numbers in the soil where pets deposit feces.

Hookworms: Hookworms are small, thin worms about one-quarter to one-half inch (.6 to 1.3 cm) long. They fasten their mouth parts onto the mucosa of the small intestines and suck blood and tissue fluids from the host. This can result in severe blood loss and malnutrition. An itchy disease in humans called cutaneous larvae migrans (creeping eruption) is caused by the hookworm *A. brasiliense*. Larvae present in the fecal matter may penetrate the skin, causing lumps and streaks beneath the skin.

E.Coli: *E. coli* is the name of a germ, or bacterium, that lives in the digestive tracts of humans and animals. *E. coli* can be transmitted by coming into contact with the feces, or stool, of humans or animals. This can happen by drinking water or eating food that has been contaminated by feces. The main symptoms of an *E. coli* O157:H7 infection are bloody diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and vomiting. Some people do not notice any symptoms. Children are more likely than adults to have symptoms. Symptoms usually start 3 or 4 days after contact with the *E. coli*.

Salmonella: Salmonella may be found in the feces of some pets, especially those with diarrhea. You can become infected if you do not wash your hands after contact with these feces. Symptoms of salmonellosis include diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps, and typically develop 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days. Most people recover without treatment. But diarrhea and dehydration may be so severe that it is necessary to go to the hospital. Older adults, infants, and those who have impaired immune systems are at highest risk. Patients with only diarrhea usually recover completely, although it may be several months before bowel habits are entirely normal. A small number of people who are infected with salmonella develop Reiter's syndrome, a disease that can last for months or years and can lead to chronic arthritis.

Giardia: Giardia is an intestinal parasite that can contaminate groundwater from pet waste. It can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, gas, and nausea. Some children with giardiasis do not grow or gain weight normally. Sometimes giardiasis does not cause any symptoms. After a person is exposed to the parasite, it usually takes 7 to 10 days for the infection to develop, but it can take from 3 to 25 days or longer. Infection

can be passed between people. Individuals may be infected for months, even if symptoms are not present.

Cryptosporidium: Cryptosporidium, also known as "crypto," can be transmitted by putting anything that has touched the stool (bowel movement) of a person or animal with crypto in the mouth. Crypto can also be conveyed by touching the mouth after touching the stool of infected persons or animals or touching soil or objects contaminated with stool. Drinking contaminated water or eating contaminated food can also cause infection by crypto. Although sometimes persons infected with crypto do not get sick, when they do get sick they can have watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, an upset stomach, or a slight fever. In some cases, persons infected with crypto can have severe diarrhea and lose weight. The first symptoms of crypto may appear two to ten days after a person becomes infected.



When cleaning up pet waste, make sure to cover your hands with a disposable glove or plastic bag. Do not go barefoot or wear open shoes such as sandals or flip-flops when in an area where dogs may deposit waste, such as a dogpark. Do not permit children to play in the dirt where dogs may leave their waste. Always wash your hands after cleaning up after your pet. ★

SOURCES: Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association; Companion Animal Parasite Council; WebMD, LLC.

Some things last longer than you think

Harmful organisms that can be transmitted from pet waste to children can persist for weeks.

Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash

Clean yards. Clean streams. Healthy children.

Message brought to you by your municipality and the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association Municipal Stormwater Partnership. Poster courtesy of Shenandoah County, Loudoun County, and Washington State.

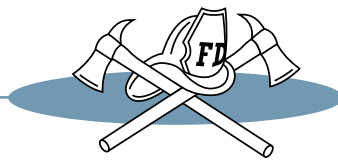
Roonie, the West Goshen Township Westie and namesake of Roonie's Canine Corner at Robert E. Lambert Park, offers advice for dog owners and users of the dogpark in each issue of the Township Newsletter.



Storm Safety *Continued from cover*

the ground, don't assume that it is not energized or that it is insulated. Stay at least ten feet away from the wire and secure the area to keep others away, too. If you discover a low or fallen line, do the following:

- Consider all wires energized and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time. Observe the minimum approach distance of 10 feet. A live wire touching the ground can cause electricity to travel through the ground, radiating outward from the contact point. Do not attempt to drive or walk over, around, or under downed power lines. Instead, maintain a safe distance between yourself and the power line. If driving, this may mean taking an alternative route.
- Do not attempt to remove a tree limb or other object from a power line. Electricity can travel through limbs, especially when they are wet. When cleaning up after the storm, make absolutely sure that no power lines are near before cutting or trimming damaged trees and removing debris from your property.
- If a broken power line should fall on your vehicle, stay inside and avoid touching any metal surfaces in your vehicle. Use your cell phone to call for help. The vehicle can become energized; you are safer remaining inside until help arrives. Metal objects like fences and guardrails can also become energized if a downed power line contacts them. Warn others not to approach or touch the vehicle, and have them call for help.
- If you must get out of the vehicle because of fire or other life-threatening hazards, jump clear of the vehicle so that you do not touch any part of it and the ground at the same time. Jump as far as possible away from the vehicle with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. Once you clear the vehicle, shuffle away, with both feet on the ground, or hop away, with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. Do not run away from the vehicle as the electricity forms rings of different voltages. Running may cause your legs to "bridge" current from a higher ring to a lower voltage ring. This could result in a shock. Get a safe distance away.
- If someone makes contact with a downed power line, don't try to rescue him or her because you risk becoming a victim yourself. Call 9-1-1 for help. ★



Safety Tips by Fire Marshal Andrea Testa

Ensuring a Safe Holiday Season

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. Special care needs to be taken with Christmas trees to minimize fire hazard. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to help ensure a safe and happy holiday and reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty when keeping a live tree in the house.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday: Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree: Do not place your tree close to a heat source,

including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame, or sparks. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree: Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, remove it from the house promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to the West Goshen Community Park dropoff between December 26th and January 16th, or, for homeowners, by placing it out for curbside pickup on January 14th.

Maintain Your Holiday Lights: Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. ★

HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

West Goshen residents are urged to properly dispose of their Christmas trees by dropping them off at the designated area of the West Goshen Community Park main parking lot between December 26, 2011 and January 16, 2012, or by placing them curbside for collection on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Anyone illegally dumping additional trees or other items will be prosecuted. The trees from the Community Park dropoff and from the special collection date will be shredded into mulch instead of occupying valuable landfill space.

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



Get your house ready for the holiday season by learning to design your own wreath or centerpiece to take home. Join the West Goshen Township Park and Recreation Department's annual holiday decorations workshop on either Wednesday, December 7th or Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 PM at the West Goshen Township Administration Building. For \$10 you can create your own centerpiece, or for \$15 you can decorate a wreath to bring home. Advance registration is required. ★

Information and registration forms are available at www.westgoshen.org/Departments/Events/Holiday_Crafts/holiday_crafts.html.

Holiday Breakfast Moves to Silsby Room of Fame Fire Company

The West Goshen Township Holiday Breakfast, an annual holiday tradition for Township residents since 2004, will move this year to the Silsby Room Banquet Facility of the Fame Fire Company at E. Rosedale Avenue and S. Matlack Street.

"With the closing of (past home of the Holiday Breakfast) The Stadium Grille, The Park and Recreation Department

was committed to keeping this event in West Goshen Township, preferably at a location large enough to accommodate over 100 people in one room," explains

Park and Recreation Director Kenneth Lehr. "We are excited by the possibility of partnering with Fame Fire Company and Christina's Catering to continue this event in the elegant banquet facilities of The Silsby Room."

This year's Holiday Breakfast will take place on Saturday, December 17th, between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Families can take a break from their hectic holiday schedules to enjoy a nice hot buffet breakfast and spend a little bit of quality time with Santa Claus himself! Children can decorate their own gingerbread men or women to eat or take home. Cost is \$12 per person. The deadline to register for the Holiday Breakfast is Monday, December 12th. ★



Information and registration forms are available at www.westgoshe.org/Departments/Events/Holiday_Breakfast/holiday_breakfast.html.

Deadline for Senior Trash Rebate is October 31st

Senior Citizens in West Goshen Township may be eligible to participate in the Township's Trash Rebate Program. To qualify, registrants must be 65 or older as of December 31, 2010. Applicants' 2010 household income, including 50% of Social Security payments, must equal \$35,000 or less. Applicants must have proof that they have received a Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate check for the year 2010. Applicants' trash and sewer accounts must be paid in full to be eligible for the rebate.

Application Forms for the Trash Rebate Program are available at the West Goshen Township Administrative Building. Completed applications must be submitted to West Goshen Township by **October 31, 2011**.

West Goshen Township Trash Rebate checks will be mailed in December 2011. ★

Spaces Still Remain for December Trips to New York

Join the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department for a Holiday Show

A limited number of spaces are still available for the December 5th trip to see The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular and for the December 10th trip for December in New York. The Radio City trip costs \$150 per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, a ticket to the show, free time in New York City, dinner at Carmine's, and driver and server tips. The December 10th trip to New York City costs \$35 per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation and driver tip. ★

TAKE A WINTER BREAK TO SEE "WICKED" ON BROADWAY



Based on popular demand, the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department will host a trip to see the smash hit musical "Wicked" on Broadway on Wednesday, February 8th. See the play about the real story behind the Wicked Witch of the West, spend free time in the Big Apple, and end your day with a family-style Italian dinner at Carmine's. Cost of the trip is \$175 per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, a ticket to the play, dinner, and server and driver tips.

For more information or registration forms for these trips, visit www.westgoshe.org, or contact the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department at 610-696-5266.

WEST GOSHEN



Township Newsletter • Volume 21 No. 2
Fall 2011

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

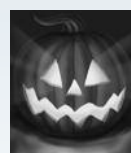
Presort Std.
U.S. Postage PAID
West Chester, PA
Permit #79

TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY Township offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24th in celebration of Thanksgiving. Trash will be collected on Friday, November 25th that week. Because Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays, these holidays will not affect hours of operations for Township offices. Trash and recyclables will be collected on their regularly scheduled days those weeks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stay Safe Before, During, and After a Storm.....1
 New Chief is a Familiar Face1
 Subdivision and Land Development Report2
 Road Rules: Distracted Driving.....3
 Public Township Meetings.....3
 Leaves to Be Collected on November 12th,
 December 3rd, and December 17th4
 Box Elder Pond Revitalized4
 Reducing PHAs Through a Better Choice of Sealants4
 Semi-Annual Waste and Recycling Guidelines.....5
 Part of Our Community: Chester County
 Astronomical Society6
 Roonie Says.....7
 Holiday Safety Tips by Fire Marshal Andrea Testa.....8

How to Properly Dispose of Your Christmas Tree.....8
 Get Crafty This Holiday Season8
 Holiday Breakfast Moves to Silsby Room of
 Fame Fire Company9
 Deadline for Senior Trash Rebate is October 31st.....9
 Spaces Still Remain for December Trips to New York9
 Take a Winter Break to See "Wicked" on Broadway.....9



HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN West Goshen Township does not designate a Halloween celebration date for children residing in the Township. Although most residents celebrate Halloween on October 31st, the Township encourages residents with children to talk to neighbors and use discretion about the date and time for trick-or-treating, and to make sure trick-or-treaters wear costumes that are visible at night and do not impede vision or create a tripping hazard.