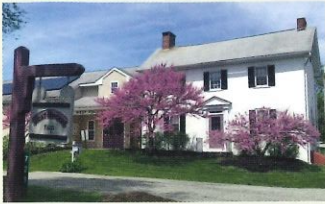


# West Vincent CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of West Vincent Township | Chester County, PA

Fall 2020



#### Board of Supervisors:

Workshop Meeting held on 1st Monday of month (if needed),  
Regular Meeting on 3rd Monday of Month, both at 7pm

#### Planning Commission:

3rd Thursday of Month at 7:30 pm

#### Environmental Advisory Council:

1st Thursday of Month at 7 pm

#### Parks and Recreation Commission:

1st Wed. of Month at 7:30 pm

#### Sustainability Committee:

3rd Tuesday of Month at 7 pm

#### Zoning Hearing Board:

Hearings scheduled as needed

#### Open Space Review Board:

4th Tuesday of Month at 7 pm

#### Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee:

Last Wed. of Month at 7:30 pm at  
Schuylkill Township Building

#### Historical Commission:

2nd Monday of Month at 7:00 pm

The Board of Supervisors  
anticipates holding meetings via  
Zoom for the foreseeable future.

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Schneider, Chairman  
Bernie Couris, Vice Chairman  
Sara Shick, Member

[westvincenttwp.org](http://westvincenttwp.org)



Follow West Vincent Township  
and the West Vincent Police Dept.  
on Facebook & Twitter

## MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS



**When COVID-19 struck West Vincent, we closed the township building and parks. However, township staff, Public Works employees and Police Officers all continued to work for you.**

Some worked remotely but others could not do so and performed their duties as they normally would. The grass and gravel roads were maintained, storm damage repaired, all by the Public Works Department. The police continued to respond to calls and to patrol our streets to ensure that all of you remain safe.

The COVID unrest occurring around the county is disturbing. Police Officers, those men and women also volunteered to keep all of us safe, have been vilified. Calls to defund the police appear in every newscast.

When asked about the tone and tenor of the residents, Chief stated that he and his officers have been continually approached by you and thanked for working through these trying times. Your remarks have been heartwarming, not only to our officers, but to all of us.

We respect and appreciate each other and that is what makes West Vincent the special community that it is.

**We want you to know that we stand by and value all of our employees and support them, not only in normal times, but especially in difficult times.**

We thank you.

Mike Schneider, Chairman  
Bernie Couris, Vice Chairman  
Sara Shick, Member

*"...the storm will  
pass and the  
sun will  
shine again."*

## NEW POLICE VEHICLE

Justin Fritz of West Vincent Township Police in Chester Springs, PA captured the photo at left of the department's new Tahoe beneath the dappled light of a White Oak tree.

"Before we put our new Tahoe into service, we took a picture last week in front of the oldest Champion White Oak tree in Pennsylvania located in our Township on the Bryn Coed Natural Lands preserve," said Chief Michael Swininger.

"This picture is a friendly reminder to our officers, and all the officers out there, that the storm will pass and the sun will shine again."

## CONGRATULATIONS!

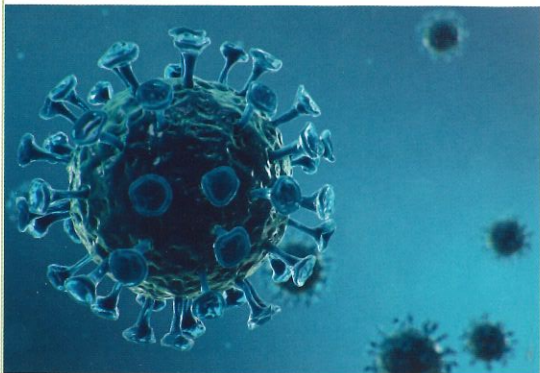
to West Vincent Township Police Department on being spotlighted on August 6, 2020 as **Police1's Photo of the Week** with this submission!



*Thank You*







## THE TOWNSHIP AND COVID-19

**The township has been following the guidelines issued by the State and Chester County Health Departments with respect to public gatherings and recreational activities.**

Public meetings of the Board of Supervisors and Committees have been held by Zoom. Details for each meeting and how to access the meeting via Zoom are posted on the township website prior to the meeting.

The Board of Supervisors anticipates holding meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

The township building will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM now until further notice. Please wear a mask when you come in.

The COVID-19 regulations affected the 2020 road program, forcing many projects until 2021.

The Board of Supervisors did authorize the following roads to receive a tar and chip application this year.

- South Chester Springs Road
- Flint Road
- Horseshoe Trail
- St. Matthews Road and Red Bone Road  
(south of route 401)
- Miller Road
- Douglas Lane
- Fellowship Road

The Board of Supervisors and the Public Works Department are working on a substantial road program for 2021.

The Board of Supervisors has taken a very strong proactive approach to understand how the pandemic is impacting the finances of the township. This is all as of mid-year.

- The most significant impact is the receipts from the Deed Transfer Tax, which were at a 22% of their budgeted amount with the slowdown in housing sales anticipated to continue through the end of the year. Receipts from this tax will not meet the budgeted amount.
- Receipts from the Real Estate Tax for 2020 are nearly identical to the receipts from last year.
- The revenue generated through the Earned Income Tax is surprisingly strong, at 52% of the budget. The Board of Supervisors anticipates that the budgeted amount for this tax will be realized.

The Board of Supervisors has identified more than \$300,000 in General Fund expenses that can be deferred, including finally funding the remaining segment of Fellowship Trail and purchasing a replacement vehicle for the Code Enforcement Office. The Board of Supervisors anticipates approving the design for the Fellowship Trail later this year after reaching an agreement to acquire the one (1) remaining easement.

*On the whole, the Board of Supervisors are taking a very cautious and deliberate approach to manage the township's finances while meeting the demands of providing exceptional service to residents.*



**For up-to-date township news and information, please visit the township website:**

[westvincentwp.org](http://westvincentwp.org)

## BRYN COED PARK DEMOLITION WORK PROGRESSING

**Despite a several week hiatus due to COVID-19 regulations,** work on the demolition at the site continues. The project is estimated to be completed in mid-November. The township reopened the parking lot and marked a hiking trail through the park to support local access to the Natural Lands Preserve.

## BRYN COED PARK TREE PLANTING

**Seedling trees and shrubs, a mix of native species including three (3) types of oak, red maple, walnut, flowering dogwood, spicebush, black willow, and red-twig dogwood, were provided by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).** Tree protection tubes were also provided by the CBF. In addition, a coir mat was installed to keep the growth down around the plant stem, making maintenance easier and allowing for establishment of the plants. Installation was done by Crow and Berry, a company specializing in riparian buffer installation; they have done work for Stroud Water Research Center, Lundale Farm, and Welkinwier, as well as for many farms and nonprofit organizations in the area. Plants are spaced to allow for mowing. Maintenance of the planting will be done by C&B along with volunteers for the first year. Green Valleys Watershed Association will provide an Operation & Maintenance plan.



# LITTER LIFTERS

## OF WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP



### West Vincent Township is happy to welcome a new community organization to its list of civic activities!

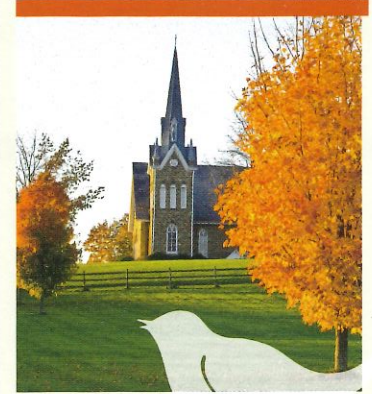
On May 7, 2020, the Litter Lifters of West Vincent Township was officially recognized as a sub-committee of the Environmental Advisory Council. This grassroots group of volunteers organized in response to problem litter areas in our beautiful township. Spearheaded by WVT resident, Peter Reitmeyer, the group initially sought to organize a community clean up to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in April. The Covid-19 pandemic necessitated postponing this celebration. The group then evolved into a dedicated litter clean-up team fueled by the concern and commitment of multiple residents, most notably, Beth Intoccia. Litter clean-ups have already taken place along many local roads and streams, including but not limited to Horseshoe Trail, Hollow Road, Bartlett Lane, Birchrun Road, and Kimberton Road.

The Litter Lifters are eager to plan a larger community clean-up, targeting a two mile stretch of Route 401 near the township building, at a date to be determined in the Fall. This will be an on-going annual commitment as part of the PennDOT Adopt a Highway initiative.

#### Additional volunteers are needed!

If you are interested in helping to keep our community beautiful, please reach out to **Beth Intoccia** at [bethintoccia@gmail.com](mailto:bethintoccia@gmail.com) or **Carys Levin** at [carys.levin@gmail.com](mailto:carys.levin@gmail.com). Safety protocols are being finalized in collaboration with the township police and will be posted on the WVT website. Yellow trash bags, gloves, and other safety supplies will be provided by the Township. (T-shirts are coming!)

Join planned community clean-ups or clean-up litter along local roads at your own convenience. Planned clean-up events will be on the WVT website [westvincenttwp.org](http://westvincenttwp.org), the West Vincent Township Facebook page, and the West Vincent Township Police Department Facebook page.



## OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROGRESS

**Enjoy the vistas of West Vincent? The quality of life? The blend of farms and neighborhoods, scenic roads and gentle streams?** They are the result of residents who have been working with the Board of Supervisors and conservation partners for decades.

This group of individuals, now led by the Open Space Advisory Board, is largely responsible for what you see as you drive through the township. A portion of your EIT goes into the fund to help them do their work.

The work is not yet done; the committee is actively seeking to preserve additional land to maintain West Vincent as a rural community. Contact the Township office if you would like to discuss protecting your land from future development.

The committee meetings are held remotely, monthly via Zoom. Notices are posted on the township's website for each meeting. Please join the meeting and volunteer to serve on this important committee. Your work can help to keep West Vincent the beautiful community that it is today.



# READY FOR 100



★ On February 18, West Vincent joined other leading towns and municipalities in a national movement toward a clean, green, and healthy future. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to transition to clean and renewable energy over the next 30 years.

**The resolution was written by the WV Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and endorsed by the WV Sustainability Committee.** It sets the intention of the township to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy for heating and transportation by 2050. West Vincent committees and residents will be working together to meet this ambitious goal while respecting the needs and concerns of all who live and work in the township.

This clean energy resolution supports the township's existing Sustainability Plan that sets a goal to reduce the township-wide carbon dioxide emissions, and the Comprehensive Plan created by the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee which has goals to lessen the impacts of carbon-induced climate change. West Vincent will be working with other Chester County communities on the first step of the transition – developing an energy transition plan. The plan will set goals, basic strategies, and initiatives to guide the township towards meeting the objectives of the program. The plan will also include emissions inventory of the township, programs to educate residents about clean energy options, and will maintain open avenues for the feedback and input from the community.

The initial West Vincent Clean Energy Transition Team (CETT) members are Ken Witek and Kathy McDevitt from the EAC and Kirk Reinbold and David Weber from the Sustainability Committee. The team has been busy here in West Vincent and is already working with other townships in the Phoenixville region and beyond.

The CETT will be forming plans with complete transparency and with input from residents and other stakeholders, taking the time to consider and address any concerns that arise.

A major focus of the effort will be on the sharing of information regarding renewable energy options so that residents and businesses can make their own energy decisions. By providing information, infrastructure improvements, and successful examples, and by collaborating with other communities and our township residents, the team hopes that all residents will choose to participate in reaching the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050.

**West Vincent has taken the first step on a long journey toward a cleaner, healthier future.** *The CETT will keep residents posted on the progress of the planning phase which is anticipated to occur through the end of 2021.*

## FOR A CLEAN, GREEN HEALTHY FUTURE



The resolution is aligned with the **READY FOR 100 Program** sponsored by the Sierra Club, which advocates for an affordable and equitable energy system across the United States powered by 100% clean, renewable energy such as wind and solar. West Vincent is the 161st community in the country, and eleventh (11) in Chester County to officially set community-wide energy transition goals. Neighboring communities that have also passed a resolution include the Townships of Uwchlan, East Pikeland, East Bradford, Kennett, Haverford, Radnor, Tredyffrin, Charlestown, and Whitmarsh, the Boroughs of Phoenixville, Downingtown, and West Chester and the cities of Philadelphia and Reading.



Please address questions to [WVCETT@gmail.com](mailto:WVCETT@gmail.com).

The initial report from the CETT to the Board of Supervisors is posted on the Township website.



# LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER!

**Calling all VOLUNTEERS! What are your interests? Historic preservation, protecting the natural environment, parks and recreation, trails, reducing carbon footprint, energy conservation?** All of these, and many more, are issues that residents of West Vincent are working on. Working together as a close network of inter-related committees, staffed by the residents, is responsible for making West Vincent what it is today; a beautiful community which we all can LIVE-WORK-PLAY.

Interested and energetic residents are welcomed and are encouraged to seek opportunities to support efforts to make West Vincent better tomorrow than it is today. Your interest and your work experience are needed to keep up with the changing world.

Recently a group whose interest in the removal of litter in the township got together and formed an informal committee dedicated to reducing litter in West Vincent.

It is easier today than in the past to become involved. Committee meetings are held online through Zoom. You are encouraged to attend these meetings and see what each is working on and how you might want to help.

Volunteers on these committees can not only make a significant contribution to the quality of life in West Vincent, they also save the township a significant amount of money.

**Become a member of this select and cherished group. VOLUNTEER!**



**With the 45+ current active volunteers offering only four (4) hours per month to work on community matters, saves the township an estimated \$250,000!**

**VOLUNTEER!**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in a volunteer position on a committee please send your resume and a letter of interest to the Township office at [office@westvincenttp.org](mailto:office@westvincenttp.org).

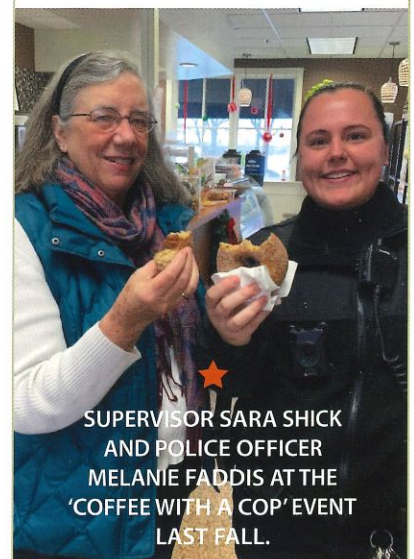
Descriptions of each committee and their responsibilities are on the Township website.

**POLICE NEWS**

## MEET OFFICER FADDIS!

**WEST VINCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FIRST FEMALE OFFICER, MELANIE FADDIS, was born and raised in the Chester County area, graduating from Henderson High School in 2013.** She then started her path in law enforcement by attending and graduating from the Delaware County Police Academy in 2016. In March 2017, she was hired as a correctional officer with Chester County Prison. In June 2018, she was hired as a part-time police officer with Valley Township in Coatesville, PA. A year later, in June 2019, she was hired as a part time police officer with West Vincent Township until she was promoted to a full-time position in January 2020.

While employed as a police officer, Officer Faddis continues to further her education by attending many trainings and receiving several certifications. Officer Faddis enjoys being active in our community by spending time with the students, teachers, and parents at our local elementary school and participating in events held in the township. As a first-generation police officer in her family, and being a woman in law enforcement, Officer Faddis couldn't be prouder to serve the community of West Vincent Township.



**SUPERVISOR SARA SHICK AND POLICE OFFICER MELANIE FADDIS AT THE 'COFFEE WITH A COP' EVENT LAST FALL.**



729 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Call: 610.458.1601

Fax: 610.458.1603

email: [office@westvincentwp.org](mailto:office@westvincentwp.org)

web: [www.westvincentwp.org](http://www.westvincentwp.org)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Message to Residents.... 1

New Police Vehicle..... 1

Meeting Schedules ..... 1

COVID-19 Update..... 2

Bryn Coed Updates ..... 2

Litter Lifters..... 3

Open Space Progress .... 3

Ready for 100 ..... 4

Calling All Volunteers.... 5

Meet Officer Faddis ..... 5

TOWNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Fall 2020

FREE PAPER  
SHREDDING



**Saturday, October 7, 2020  
 9-11:30 am**

West Vincent Township  
 Building  
 Parking Lot  
*(Rain or Shine)*

Papers will be securely  
 shredded by **ProShred  
 Security.**

*No businesses, please!*

BUTTONWOOD LANE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
MOVING FORWARD



**The Board of Supervisors recently awarded a contract to McMahon Associates, an engineering firm located in Exton, to propose a preliminary alternative design and layout for the bridge replacement.**

The existing structures consist of concrete encased steel I beams which are in poor condition due to the age of the existing structure; the bridge needs to be replaced.

The alternative analysis will be based on the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis which will determine the preferred location and size of the new structure. It is anticipated that this task will be complete by the end of 2020.

The Board will select the best alternative and authorize continuation of this project. Due to the sensitive crossing of the Birch Run and the intersection with Hollow Road, the project will involve permitting and oversight from a number of outside agencies. The overall timeframe to completion is two-three years.