



CONNECTIONS

Doing What's Right to Protect What's Left

Fall 2022

Township Monthly Meetings

Board of Supervisors:

Meetings held on the 1st (workshop meeting, if needed) and 3rd Monday (regular meeting)

Human Relations Commission

4th Monday

Historic Resources Committee

1st Tuesday

Open Space Review Board

4th Tuesday

Parks and Recreation Commission

1st Wednesday

Historical Commission

2nd Wednesday

Sustainability Committee:

3rd Wednesday

Environmental Advisory Council

1st Thursday

Planning Commission

3rd Thursday

Clean Energy Transition Team

Meetings held as needed

Zoning Hearing Board

Hearings scheduled as needed

All meetings are held at the West Vincent Township Building at 7 PM, unless noted otherwise on the Township Calendar located on our website.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bernie Couris, *Chairman*
Sara Shick, *Vice Chairman*
Dana Alan, *Member*

westvincentwp.org

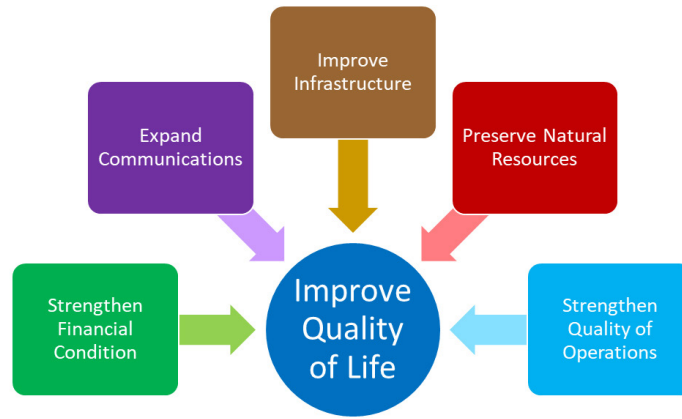


Follow West Vincent Township and the West Vincent Police Dept. on Facebook & Instagram

CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM

Expanding Our Vision and Focusing Our Scope

We are making significant progress against our 2020 three-year strategic plan. Affecting the appropriate balance among work-live-play is the cornerstone of our plans to sustain the quality of life in West Vincent.



Our plans include creating a series of environmental and preservation programs, devoting significant resources to stormwater management and road improvements, continuing the development of our park and trail system, adding community recreational programs, obtaining grants for infrastructure improvements to strengthen our financial position, and implement training on and reviews of IT resources to improve the quality of operations.

This year we have achieved the following against our stated goals:

- Commenced the design of Fellowship Trail
- Adopted the Township Trail Master Plan
- Conserved 21 acres of land
- Updated Ludwig's Village zoning
- Expanded woodlands protection regulations
- Acquired a second hybrid police cruiser
- Implemented stormwater and roadway improvements
- Strengthened the township stormwater requirements
- Developed plans for Andrew Evans Park additions
- Acquired additional park land along French Creek
- Awarded \$250,000 grant from DCNR for improvements to Opanie Park
- Awarded \$100,000 grant for stormwater management improvements
- Awarded \$250,000 grant from Chester County for improvements to Opanie Park
- Continuous updates to the township website content, communications, and increased social media usage

Relative Measures – Population Growth and Increased Open Space

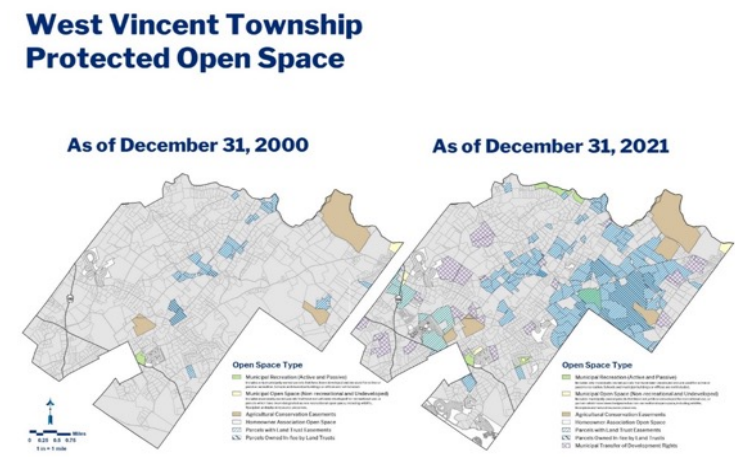
West Vincent is uniquely defined by its bucolic landscape and active citizens. Our highly engaged residents have helped create an evolving series of strategic plans to preserve the Township's natural resources and improve the quality of life for their neighbors.

The 21st century provided a significant increase in population and land development. As a result, The Township joined the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee (PRPC) adopting a program to conserve land and manage land development.

The PRPC allowed township regional members to zone for high density commercial, residential, and industrial uses where infrastructure previously existed; primarily, in or adjacent to the Borough of Phoenixville along Route 23. The PRPC allowed West Vincent to develop environmentally sensitive zoning with a primary focus on preserving its natural resources.

In 2005, the Ludwig's Corner Master Plan was developed with a vision for a high-density walkable mixed-use development at the Ludwig's Village Center Commercial District (at the intersection of Route 401 and Route 100). This area was historically the township center for commercial and industrial uses, and now represents more

than 27% of the township's housing stock. The conservation efforts of the township and its partners have preserved more than 40% of the township. Full details can be found in the 2023-2025 Budget and Strategic Plan located on our website.



Improvements at Opalanie Park and Andrew Evans Park



The increase in population also brought new challenges to the Township, specifically, improving the existing trail system and providing additional recreation.

Local trails have always been provided in some fashion, mostly across private property, with permission. Although regional trails traversed the township, they did not connect to the township trails. A township-wide trail plan (The Master Trail Plan) has been approved by the Board of Supervisors which includes identifying existing trails open for public use (a map of those trails is on display in the lobby of the Township Building). The Plan also recommends connections between existing trails, formally blazing existing public trails, and collaborating with neighboring municipalities, Chester County, and others to expand the regional trail network.

The Township's existing recreation system is a shared responsibility between the township and residential developments, where the large residential developments provide recreational facilities to meet the needs of their residents and the township maintains a community park and smaller township parks.

The acquisition of the 72-acre Opalanie Park presented the township with a recreation planning opportunity not experienced since the development of Andrew Evans Park. A conceptual plan is currently being developed, focusing on passive recreation amenities within the park and another conceptual plan includes the addition of two (2) pickleball courts and a new playground proposed for construction at Andrew Evans Park. The Environmental Advisory Council has also surveyed Andrew Evans Park and identified existing trees to be replaced by native trees.

A grant application to Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has been submitted to help offset construction and tree replacement costs. Construction and tree removal and planting would not occur until late 2023 or early 2024, pending grant approval.

2016-2022 Road Program



The decade of the 2020's features the end of significant growth in population resulting from the completion of several land developments. There are no pending residential land development applications.

The slowing of development activity coincident with the increase in population allowed the Township to focus priorities on improving the roadways.

All of the streets in the Weatherstone Development were paved this year. Significant stormwater improvements were made along Kimberton Road, Sheeder Mill Road, Shady Lane, and Hilltop Road. Each of these roads was paved after the completion of the stormwater improvements.

In addition to these improvements, the stone and arch bridge on Kimberton Road was rebuilt and the failing culvert on Fellowship Road was repaired.

Community Day 2022



Despite the wet weather, our friends and neighbors enjoyed our annual Community Day, held on May 14. All participants enjoyed delicious food (Dallas' French Fries, KONA Ice, Why Not Farm, Buenos Aires Empanada Bar) and various types of music, performed by our local talent (Tom Emery, Dave Loves Donna, Rhythm Road, Dan Frantz, Dave Lebresco, and Bollywood Friends).

Twenty-three vendors provided an array of items produced locally such as art, hand-made jewelry, pottery, home décor, alpaca wool clothing, honey with live bee displays, and artisan cheeses.

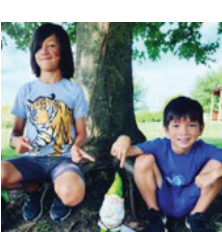
Energy Expo exhibitors provided examples of energy efficiency Energy Star appliances, rebates, home energy audits, geothermal and advanced HVAC systems, commercial/residential solar arrays, electric landscape equipment, electric cars, and electric bikes.



Phoenix Animal Rescue, with The Basil Group and West Vincent Township, hosted an event favorite, the Pet Parade and Contest. They also showcased some of their adorable rescues for adoption.

Bartlett Trees provided over 200 free native tree seedlings and our Environmental Advisory Council, with the help of local Girl Scout Troop 4082, distributed free milkweed plants they grew from seeds earlier in the year.

Children enjoyed a bouncy house, inflatable derby race, trackless train ride, sack races, and a few tug-of-war competitions!



Over 50 residents participated in our Instagram, "Where's Vincent?" gnome contest! Congratulations to Rachel Kim, winner of the \$150 VISA gift card!

Although some of our family activities were canceled, due to the rain, our local fitness groups (Bec Fitness and Yoga with Sheila) stayed on site to speak with families and friends about their offerings and ways to incorporate some healthy lifestyle changes.

We appreciate the support of our 24 sponsors who contributed approximately \$7,000 towards the event, our local Owen J. Roberts student volunteers, and the West Vincent Police Department and local first responders in attendance.

Visit our Community Day home page in early 2023 to register as vendor, sponsor, or food truck providers.

Movie Night in the Park

Our Movie Night in the Park, held in August was attended by over 200 friends and neighbors!

Thank you to all who shared their Saturday night and enjoyed *Spider-Man: No Way Home!*

We will be hosting additional Movie Night in the Park dates next summer!



Administration Updates - Effective October 1, 2022

PERMITS



Tracey Franey of Cedarville Engineering Group, LLC has joined us as our new Zoning Officer.

Tracey is on premises Monday and Friday - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m./ Wednesday 12:00 noon - 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 610-458-1601.

To schedule a setback or zoning inspection, contact Tracey at 484-254-5375.

Review and Approval Process

The review and approval of your residential/commercial building permit by the Zoning Officer will be performed within 15/30 business days*, respectively, of receipt of your application.

We'll call you--

The applicant will be notified by the Permit Coordinator via telephone and/or email when the permit is approved and ready within the 15/30 business day* timeframe noted above.

*The Permit Coordinator and/or the Zoning Officer will contact you if there are incomplete permit applications and/or missing/incomplete documents, which may extend the process.



SCHEDULING BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Matt Spellman of ARRO Consulting has joined us as our new Building Official and Inspection Officer.

To schedule an inspection (commercial or residential), the permit applicant must call the Inspection Officer directly at 484-880-3910. To request an inspection, provide contractor name, contractor phone number, address of job location, permit number, and type of inspection.

Stormwater Inspection (remains unchanged) - Scheduled directly with the Township Engineer, LTL Consultants, Ltd., at 610-987-9290.

NOTARY SERVICES

Notary services are available to our township residents by appointment only, Monday - Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please call the Township Office at 610-458-1601 to schedule your notary appointment.

Discounted PECO Energy Assessments Exclusively for WVT Residents!



Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for colder weather. A home Energy Assessment is an effective and simple way to boost your year-round comfort and lower your energy costs by up to 20 percent. Energy assessments are offered through PECO at a cost of \$49 and include LED bulb replacements, smart power strips and a detailed report of the findings, where applicable.

Take part in our township's clean energy initiative, save money, and ensure your home is energy efficient by scheduling a PECO Energy Assessment today.

For a limited time, West Vincent Township residents will receive an exclusive \$10 discount on standard assessments when using promo code **WVCEF**. A \$150 value for **only \$39!**

For more information and to schedule your assessment, visit:

www.peco.com/assessment, call 888-573-2672 or scan code **before December 31, 2022**. This offer is good through the end of the year (expires December 31, 2022).

Please use promo code **WVCEF** (West Vincent Clean Energy Future) at check-out or when speaking to a representative.

An additional bonus! The first 20 residents who call or use on-line scheduling before 12/31/22 to make an assessment appointment using the promo code **WVCEF** will qualify to have the \$39 reimbursed by the township.

To receive the reimbursement from West Vincent Township, please submit the following items to office@westvincentwp.org: a copy of your receipt and energy assessment report and a comment by you, noting the type(s) of changes you are considering implementing based on your report findings.

The Township will reimburse you for the \$39. The Clean Energy Transition Team will be developing seminars and workshops based on our resident feedback. All submissions for reimbursement must be received by the township no later than **March 31, 2023**.



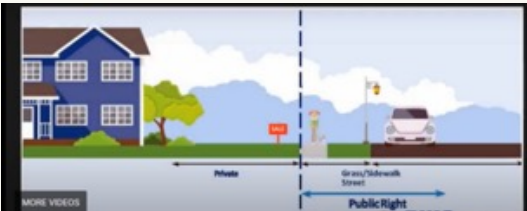
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sign Placement – The Wrong and...Right of Way

Temporary signs for local businesses doing work on your property or for local events are to provide your support and share information with your community and friends.

The following are general guidelines to ensure your support is not placed in the "public right of way". Public right of way means the area on, below, or above a public roadway, highway, street, public sidewalk, alley, waterway, or utility easement dedicated for compatible uses.

Simply it is the part of a property which is available for the township to allow for traffic movement (paving, plowing, clearing obstructions, etc.) and to provide public utilities access for installation and maintenance. The township and other authorized users do not own the property but are permitted access in a prescribed manner for road safety and the public good.



Road Rights of Way are generally described in feet from the road centerline:

Major Arterial	Route 100 (SR 0100) – 80' right of way / 40' left/right from center of road/street
Major Collector	Route 401 (SR 0401) – 60' right of way / 30' left/right from center of road/street
Minor Collector	Birchrun Road (SR 1030) / Hollow Road (SR 1033) / Kimberton Road (T 561) / Pughtown Road (SR 1028)/ St. Matthews Road (SR 1031) / southern part of Flowing Springs Road – 60' right of way / 30' left/right from center of road/street
Streets within a development	If there are sidewalks, place the sign behind the sidewalk. If there are no sidewalks, assume 33' right of way/ 16.5' left/right from center of road

The above guidelines do not pertain to business signs or other signs requiring a Zoning Permit. Please consult with our Permit Coordinator or Zoning Officer to confirm if the Township requires a permit for your sign.

Snow plowing and salting of Township roads

Trees and objects such as boulders and stones should not be put in the road right of way. These items are a potential hazard to motorists on the road and to the Township's road equipment. Accidents due to direct contact with a plow is rare, but, if you do experience an incident with your property, claims for damage must be issued in writing to the Township Manager's office within 48 hours of the snow event for review. The complete policy can be found on the Public Works Department web page, Property/Mailbox Damage Policy.



Pollinators Have a Pitstop at West Vincent Elementary School

-D. Delany, Environmental Advisory Council Chair

The West Vincent Elementary School has a new student Nature Club! Building on the success of this spring's Earth Day Celebration, which was centered around the Monarch butterfly, the school is planning new ways to connect students with nature. In September, volunteers from the West Vincent EAC Garden Club helped plant a brand-new Pollinator Pitstop on the school grounds.

Not only can the students enjoy the Pollinator Pitstop while they are outside, but they can also experience the garden while inside. The Pitstop was strategically placed near windows of a busy area of the building, where students pass frequently throughout the day, so all can see the flowers, birds, and butterflies. The Pitstop will contain plants that flower in spring and fall to provide seeds and berries for birds in winter. The EAC Garden Club planted garden varieties of purple asters and yellow goldenrods, which are



top native Keystone fall plants.

Nurse Becky hopes that active engagement with nature will help students (and faculty) to recover from the stress of the pandemic – kids healing nature* nature healing kids. Extensive research supports that spending time in nature, specifically in woodland settings, creates profound positive changes in our physical and mental health. Exposure to trees reduces depression, anxiety, and mood disorders, while increasing gratitude, selflessness, and wonder. Trees have been proven to help our cardiovascular and immune systems function better, relieve ADHD, decrease the stress hormone cortisol, and lower blood pressure. Fortunately for our students and teachers, West Vincent Elementary School is surrounded by beautiful woods!

The West Vincent EAC has committed to help with future West Vincent Elementary School nature programs. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to join us (d.delany@comcast.net)!



CETT Public Roundtable

On July 25, 2022 West Vincent Clean Energy Transition Team held a public roundtable at the Henrietta Hankin Library to introduce and discuss the township's clean energy transition plan. A draft of the current plan was disseminated for review prior to the meeting. Feedback was collected from a group of stakeholders representing a range of political and township organizations, schools, businesses, HOAs, faith communities, as well as a range of prior knowledge of environmental issues and energy technologies.

The discussion was directed by consultants at Practical Energy Solutions, facilitated by iSpring Associates and funded by a Chester County Planning Commission Vision Partnership Program grant.

This first public introduction of the township's plan created many questions. In general, the stakeholders were enthusiastic that the township is taking the initiative and were eager to learn more details.

The WV CETT will be working with the township to improve energy efficiency of municipal facilities, planning more outreach opportunities for residents and businesses, and identify resources to help with the energy transition to cleaner, non-fossil fuel energy sources.

The team is always looking for participants (young and old) interested in learning more, helping us raise awareness, or who want to engage in transitioning to clean energy at home.



Police Hybrid Vehicles

West Vincent Township Police Department has added a second hybrid Ford SUV patrol vehicle and decommissioned an older Ford Sedan. The hybrid has been working well with approximately 40% savings in fuel costs and no maintenance issues.



Township Electric Vehicle Charger

EV Charger is currently FREE to all township residents and can be located on PlugShare with other EV chargers along your travel routes! Download the PlugShare app on your phone today!



Opalanie Park – Hotspot to Spot Feathered Friends on a Cold Rainy Day

-D. Delany, Environmental Advisory Council Chair and Rachel McKay

-photo credits, Rachel McKay

A bird walk in the middle of a tropical storm may not sound appealing to most, but our intrepid guides from the Valley Forge Audubon Society, John and Patty Werth and Eric Hughes along with 11 dedicated participants did not let the wet weather dampen their enthusiasm to take part of the second Beginner Bird Walk held on October 2 at Opalanie Park, located at 1422 St. Matthews Road.

Twenty-four species of birds, including palm, yellow-rumped and black-throated green warblers were spotted. Other species recorded included three kinds of woodpeckers, an American kestrel, bluebirds, towhees, finches, sparrows, cardinals, and hawks – an impressive list, considering the gloomy, rainy weather!

Opalanie Park has become the hottest new spot in Chester County for avid birders to gather. Since becoming an eBird Hotspot in October 2021, an astounding 122 species of birds have been recorded in the park! Some of the birds are rarely seen in our area anymore, but they visit Opalanie. If you would like to see the list of birds that have been observed so far, or if you want to start your own list, check out the Opalanie Park eBird page (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L16684648>).

Another bird spotted on that rainy morning, perched on a dead tree over the top field was an American Kestrel, the smallest bird of prey. Kestrel numbers have declined by 73% in our region (the highest rate in the nation), so you may only occasionally see kestrels hanging around the kestrel boxes at Bryn Coed. We plan to install boxes at Opalanie Park to help keep them returning to our area and prevent further decline.



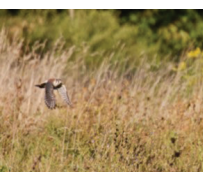
Immature Ruby throated hummingbird at the jewel weed.



Lincoln's Sparrow on a shrub.



Magnolia Warbler enjoying the Poke berry ripening at Opalanie.



Kestrel hunting in the field.

How can you help keep slow the decline and enjoy our feathered friends?

- **Plant** more food for the birds! Plant native trees (especially oaks), native shrubs that provide berries, and native flowers at your home.
- **Join Our Email List** and select EAC to learn about our Bird Town, other nature projects and events, or to volunteer/participate at an event!
- **Create** your own account on eBird and become one of the many citizen scientists collecting data.
- **Explore** using the Merlin Bird ID app, created by The Cornell Lab (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>).
- **Wander** around Opalanie Park and go on a birding treasure hunt! Grab a pair of binoculars, a camera, or record sounds with your phone. Early mornings when the birds roll out of bed are usually the best time to hear them sing the praises of the new day or squawk about being hungry!

Recycling – Paper, Batteries, and Bikes Oh My!

-Kirk Reinbold, Sustainability Committee Chair

Over 30 residents stopped by for the Sustainability Committee paper shredding and battery recycling event held on Saturday, October 22. We collected over 150 pounds of batteries and were also able to collect a few bikes to deliver to Pedals for Progress hosted by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority at West Goshen the next day. We received a lot of energy questions, interest in solar and geothermal energy were also hot topics.

In October, our chairs of Sustainability Committee, Environmental Advisory Council, and the West Vincent Litter Lifters, Kirk Reinbold, Donna Delany, and Beth Intoccia, toured the TotalRecycle plant in Birdsboro, PA. This single-stream recycling facility processes between 300 and 600 tons of recycling per

day and sells the separated output primarily to local facilities that process it into new product. The slightly malodorous, noisy, busy facility provided enlightening support in the importance of producing less trash and doing a better job to recycle at home.

Scan the SC QR code to access the Sustainability Committee web page for additional recycling resources and links.



Parks & Recreation Commission Updates

Fellowship Community Garden

The Fellowship Community Garden has enjoyed its second year at full capacity with 63 gardens and weekly donations made to the Phoenixville Area Community Services.

The Fellowship Community Garden herb plot continues to supply fellow gardeners with oregano, mint, lemon balm, and sage.

Refer to the township website in late winter for the 2023 season. Current gardeners and West Vincent Township residents are given priority in garden assignments.



Our gardens and parks benefit from the work of our industrious and creative girl and boy scout troupes.

Girl Scout Troop 4082 installed the Little Free Library where many have already swapped and shared their gardening books. The Little Free Library is open to all of our West Vincent township residents—leave a garden book—take a garden book!



A team from Girl Scout Troop 4151, lead by Harmony Olson, also planted native plants for pollinators by the garden entrance.

Veterans Memorial to be Installed at Andrew Evans Park



A memorial will be installed at Andrew Evans Park in early spring 2023 thanks to the creativity and intention of West Vincent Eagle Scout and Owen J. Roberts student, Brian Baker. Brian created the design and the model and presented the concept to the Board of Supervisors and our Parks & Recreation Commission.

A plaque will be placed on a podium in the middle of the memorial with the dedication:

“Veterans Memorial - A place of honor to all men and women of West Vincent Township who served their country in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, to preserve the blessings of liberty and freedom for all.”

Native plants such as Winterberry and Bee Balm will be planted along with hardwood mulch and pond gravel.

The Township appreciates the respect and conscientious intentions of our young citizens such as Harmony and Brian.

Litter Lifters of West Vincent

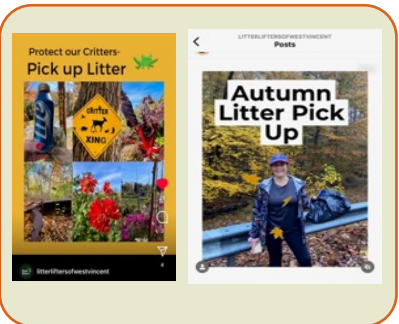
-Beth Intoccia, Lead Volunteer Litter Lifters of West Vincent

Beth Intoccia, lead volunteer of the Litter Lifters of West Vincent, recently attended the PA Litter Summit organized by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. Stakeholders from businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and volunteer groups from across our state and across the United States were in attendance. Beth shared the following from the two-day summit:

- **Plant Trees** - If you must remove a tree from your property, consider replacing the tree. In some neighborhoods in our township, you are required to replace a tree that is removed. Trees are not only aesthetically appealing, but they are also needed for heat absorption, water filtration, windbreaks, improving respiratory health, and increasing the value of your home.
- **Every Litter Bit Matters** - The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Environmental Protection, PA Dept of Transportation, and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful launched the “Let’s Fight Dirty” litter education campaign on social media, radio ads, bus wraps and bus stations. Their message is clear--don’t ever litter and pick up litter when you see it. Pennsylvania spends \$350 million to combat thousands of pounds of litter. “Litter attracts litter” so by joining a cleanup or by refraining from littering, we will continue to keep our township, and by extension, our state, beautiful and clean.
- **Build Partnerships to Effectively Manage Litter**- Building reciprocal partnerships within our community is the key to effective litter management for the township. We have developed productive relationships with Chester County residents, other township environmental advisory committees, watershed organizations, government leaders, and area restaurants who not only support, but also take part in our cleanup efforts.

Follow the Litter Lifters Instagram @litterliftersofwestvincent every day for a new litter tip, upcoming cleanup dates, volunteer highlights, and more!

Our Litter Lifters committee volunteers: Beth Intoccia (lead volunteer), Ken Alan, George Cooney, Donna Delany, Carys Egan, Traci Frederick, Dorothy Lynn, Rosalia Provini, and Gary Westcott.





729 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Call: 610.458.1601

Fax: 610.458.1603

email: office@westvincentwp.org

web: www.westvincentwp.org

WHAT'S INSIDE

Expanding Our Vision	Cover
Relative Measures	1
Improvements at Opalanie	1
Community Day	2
Movie Night	2
Administration Updates	2
PECO Energy Assessments	3
Public Works Department	3
Pollinator Pitstop at WVE	4
CETT Public Roundtable	4
Opalanie Park - Bird Walk	5
Recycling	5
Parks & Recreation	6
Litter Lifters of West Vincent	6

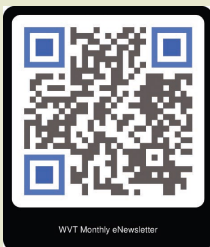
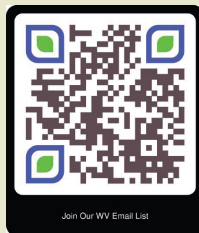
JOIN US

Litter Lifters Event - Saturday, December 3, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

– at Route 100, Littles Tractor Supply. In partnership with Green Valley Watershed. Pennsylvania State Policy will be providing safety support.

The Sustainability Committee will be hosting a Seed Swap Day in conjunction with the National Seed Swap on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023.

Join Our Email List to receive email notifications on Township topic(s) of your choice. You choose which topic(s) in which to receive updates for events, meetings, and latest program and resource information.



Our monthly **eNewsletter** provides upcoming meetings, events, and programs for the coming month, as well as important news and updates you may have missed. It's a consolidated look at the month ahead, so you don't miss meetings or events that interest you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Email us at
office@westvincentwp.org,
subject: P&R Trails
to volunteer to
help clear and
maintain our trails
when we begin
trail blazing in the spring!