



CONNECTIONS

Doing What's Right to Protect What's Left

Summer 2023

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



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TOWNSHIP NEWS

Update on the Road Program

As part of the three-year budget plan adopted in 2020, the Board of Supervisors established the framework for significant investments to be made to the township road system. Now in our third year of the plan, the Township has committed to approximately \$2 million for 2023 improvements which include repairs to our roads and roadside stormwater drainage.

2023

- Micro-surfacing streets and drainage and road improvements on the following roads: Adelpia Lane, Brian Way, Carriage Lane, Flowing Springs Road, Fox Run Road, Forest Glen Drive, Kimberbrae Drive, Hollow Road, Houndstooth Lane, Houndstooth Circle, Lily Pond Lane, Laymens Way, Malehorn Road, and Red Fox Lane completed in June.
- Stormwater improvements along Jaine Lane will be completed by the third quarter
- Paving and minor stormwater improvements along Hollow Road and Flowing Spring is expected to be completed in September
- Stormwater improvements and paving of Saint Andrews Lane is expected to be completed by the end of the year

2022

- Storm drainage improvements and paving on Kimberton Road, Sheeder Mill Road and Hilltop Road
- Rebuilding of the stone arch bridge on Kimberton Road
- Storm drainage improvements on Shady Lane
- Road improvements and paving to all roads in Weatherstone Development

2021

- Repaired deteriorated storm drainage piping along Houndstooth Lane
- Deteriorated culverts replaced on Hilltop Road and Sheeder Mill Road

New Ad Hoc Committee

In the May 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Board approved The Trail Plan Implementation Committee as ad hoc committee expanding our resident engagement opportunities. The Trail Plan Implementation Committee will serve to advise the Board on the manner and locations to implement the Trail Plan. Recommendations may include extensions of existing trails, the construction of trails on land owned/leased by the Township, and the location of trail heads. The committee may also recommend purchasing or leasing land for trails, seeking legal, engineering, and planning assistance, and suggest coordination with funding and conversation entities for regional and circuit connections.

Ad hoc committees are committees established by a township resolution, created for a specific short-term project. In comparison, our advisory committees are established by a specific Township ordinance to fulfill a long-term goal and/or township function. Advisory committees have specific purposes, duties, member terms, reporting requirements, and for a permanent term.

Both types of committees help support and advance our township goals to provide high quality service to all members of our community in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Scan the WVT Volunteer Form QR code if you would like to take part in the Trail Plan Implementation Committee or any of our other advisory committees.



On The Road To A Clean Energy Future

— K. McDevitt and K. Reinbold, Clean Energy Transition Team

Concerned about climate change, air pollution, high energy costs? There are many ways for residents, business owners and institutions to address these issues and the West Vincent Clean Energy Transition Team (CETT) is here to help. And the West Vincent community can help move us toward a clean energy future by filling out the Clean Energy Survey, either in print form or on-line.

The road to reduced fossil fuel use has three phases: reducing the amount energy consumed, choosing efficient electric products, and choosing to produce or purchase clean, renewable energy. PECO can help residents make their homes as efficient as possible with their residential energy assessment program (see below). Changes in daily habits can also save energy. The West Vincent Elementary School recently launched an idle-free bus stop campaign that encourages people to turn off their cars while waiting at the school and at bus stops to save fuel and emissions particularly harmful to children. CETT plans to provide more information about reducing energy consumption at a display planned for this July at the Henrietta Hankin Library along with on-going programming.

The second step in reducing fossil fuel use is choosing electric products over those that burn gas or other fuels. Whether residents are intentionally replacing products to address climate concerns or find it necessary to replace failing or obsolescent equipment, CETT will provide information to help residents consider clean, fuel-efficient appliances, vehicles, heating and cooling systems, and lawn care tools.

The third aspect of energy transition is to produce or purchase clean energy. In our area, solar electricity production is most effective. CETT will provide resources to help the West Vincent

community find solutions that work for their homes and businesses. Helping to unravel the funding options and various rebates and incentives available for solar installation and other solutions in efficiency and electrification is another goal for CETT community education.

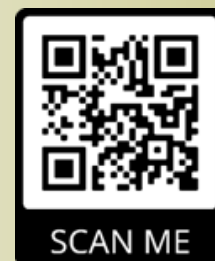
CETT is developing a program that will encourage residents who have made changes to improve efficiency, electrify, produce or purchase clean energy to share their experiences and knowledge with other community members. We ask you to fill out the Clean Energy Survey so that we can get a better idea of where the West Vincent community is now and what the potential can look like. Simply scan the QR code to complete the survey online. Together we can work towards a cleaner and more sustainable future!



Formed after West Vincent Township adopted the Clean Energy Resolution in February of 2020, CETT has been working with neighboring townships (East Pikeland, Schuylkill, and West Pikeland) and Practical Energy Solutions (PES), a local energy consulting firm, to develop plans to help reduce the use of fossil fuels and subsequent greenhouse gas emissions in our township. The work with PES, funded largely by a grant from Chester County, is almost complete and the CETT team is preparing to start outreach and education programs for the West Vincent community this summer.

For more information or to volunteer for the team, please email wvcett@gmail.com or visit the CETT web page on the township website.

Discounted PECO Energy Assessments Exclusively for WVT Residents – extended to September 1, 2023!



Attention WVT Small Businesses: Visit <https://solutions.peco-energy.com/small-business> to see full list of eligible energy efficiency solutions that might be right for your small business.



West Vincent Clean Energy Transition Team Clean Energy Survey

Every resident and business wants to reduce utility expenses and save money. Making changes in our energy usage can also reduce our impact on the environment we all share and make our homes and businesses more resilient in the long run.

Perhaps you want to save money and energy, but you do not know where to start or how to find reliable information. Or perhaps you've already performed energy savings projects around your home or business. If you have implemented successful projects, would you like to share your experiences with friends and neighbors? If so, the WVCETT would love to hear from you.

We have put together a brief survey of ten (10) questions. By completing the survey you will help us be better energy stewards within our community.

We invite you to complete the survey either in print below and mail to or drop it off at the Township Building OR you can simply scan the QR code and complete it online. If you have any questions regarding this survey or any clean energy ideas, please contact us at wvcett@gmail.com.



1. Have you had an energy assessment of your property? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If you have had an energy assessment, please share the service provider and year of assessment:
2. Have you made any of the following substantial energy conservation improvements (>\$1,000) to your property?
(check all that apply): ☐ Upgrading doors ☐ Insulation ☐ Substantial weatherstripping and caulking ☐ Upgrading windows No/none
3. Is your electrical panel at least 200 amps or have you upgraded it to at least 200 amps? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you installed any of the following major Energy Star appliances? (check all that apply):
☐ Dishwasher ☐ Dehumidifier ☐ Refrigerator/freezer ☐ Programmable thermostat ☐ Water heater ☐ Washer/dryer ☐ Other ☐ None
5. Where do you get most of your heat? ☐ Burning firewood ☐ Burning wood pellets ☐ Neither
6. Have you replaced the following HVAC equipment to incorporate modern heat pump technology?
(check all that apply): ☐ Electric baseboard ☐ Natural gas furnace ☐ Oil furnace ☐ Propane furnace ☐ Water heater ☐ None
7. Which do you use on your property? (check all that apply): ☐ Geothermal ☐ Solar ☐ Backup battery ☐ None
Please provide details, i.e., size of solar system, age, type of batteries, and year of installation
8. Do you own any of the following vehicles? (check all that apply): ☐ Hybrid ☐ Plug-in hybrid electric ☐ Electric ☐ None
If you own any of the above vehicles, please share your make, model, and year.
9. May we include the details about your energy projects on a map of our township so we can display and share community progress?
☐ Yes, you may reflect my street number and road ☐ Yes, you may reflect my road only ☐ No, please do not use my address
10. What other information about clean energy would like to have sent to you or would like to discuss?

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Please check one: I am a: ☐ renter ☐ homeowner ☐ small business owner

Environmental Advisory Council – Healthy Yard Program

— Environmental Advisory Council



Do you have a healthy yard? Healthy yards benefit the whole community!

If you take care of your yard in a healthy way, we want to thank you and recognize your efforts. If you want to have a healthier yard, but you aren't sure how to begin, we can help!

How we care for our yard can have a significant impact on the health of our families, our pets, our community, and our natural world. Individual homeowners have the power to make a difference! A healthy yard can save us money and time, while adding to the beauty and comfort of our outdoor spaces. A healthy yard can make a big difference in cleaning our water and air, catching rain to manage stormwater, and providing food and shelter for wildlife, birds, and pollinators. Research shows that trees improve the physical, mental, and social health of a community.

We all want to have healthy yards, but sometimes it is difficult to find information or figure out how to take the first step. The West Vincent Environmental Advisory Council has assembled

an application that lists qualities we think a healthy yard would have. We invite you to see how many apply to your yard by filling out the West Vincent Healthy Yard Recognition Program application. If your yard qualifies, you may choose to receive a yard sign and/or digital award. The Healthy Yard Program web page has links to lots of information about yard care. If you feel inspired to take positive action (and we hope you do), feel free to fill out the application as many times as you like to improve your score!

The Healthy Yard Program is a voluntary, educational, and inspirational initiative of the Environmental Advisory Council designed to recognize positive environmental contributions to our community.

For information about yard care and additional resources, please visit the EAC Healthy Yard Program web page at located on the Environmental Advisory Council web page on the township website. Questions or requests for a personal consultation may be emailed to eac@westvincentwp.org

Don't miss out on this full interactive and educational experience! We encourage you to complete the application ONLINE using the QR code so we can receive your information instantly. If you prefer to use the hard copy form, simply mail or drop off your completed form to the Township office.



Sustainability Committee – Stickers to the Rescue

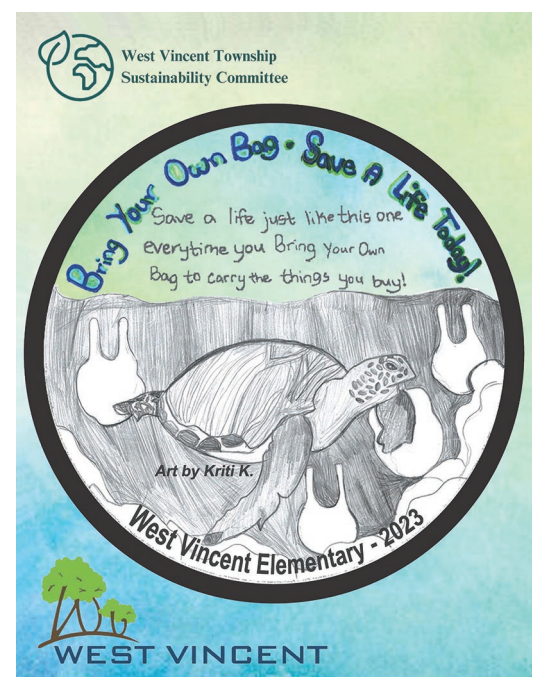
Aware of the increasing number of local governmental bodies banning plastics, especially plastic bags, and directed to study such a ban by our township supervisors, the Sustainability Committee (SC) decided to help our residents remember to take their own bags out of their vehicles when shopping. It decided to create reminder stickers.

Uwchlan Township not only banned plastic bags, but also required a mandatory charge for a replacement paper bag, making using reusable bags both a sustainability and economic decision. Our SC came up with the idea to place a sticker in our cars to remind us to not only use our own bags but to not leave the bags behind in the back seat or trunk. The sticker can be placed on the steering wheel, dashboard, side window, or door.









The SC enlisted the help of the West Vincent Elementary School fifth and sixth grade students as part of an Earth Day activity to create artwork that would fit into a 2 1/2" diameter circle. Twenty-six designs were presented to the SC at its May 17 meeting and the artwork created by Kriti K. was selected. The design not only incorporates the slogan "Bring Your Own Bag", but it also reminds us of the adverse impact the use of plastic bags has on the lives of sea creatures.

The stickers were distributed to all students at West Vincent Elementary School before their last day of school in June. We have included one in this newsletter for you to use. Additional stickers are available for free in the lobby of the Township Building and will also be available at upcoming township events.

























— Sustainability Committee
























West Vincent Healthy Yard Recognition Program Application

 Plant  Compost  Health  Wildlife  Organic Practices  No light pollution  Water, Stormwater  Green Energy
















I. Plantings

- ☐ My yard has native trees    
- ☐ My yard has native flowers    
- ☐ My yard has native shrubs, ferns, or native grasses.    
- ☐ My yard has native plants that provide food (nectar, pollen, nuts, berries, seeds, fruits) for different seasons.    
- ☐ I have reduced the size of my lawn by planting natives, flowers, or vegetables.    
- ☐ I check the plants I buy to make sure they were not treated with Neonicotinoids.    

II. Yard Care

- ☐ I remove invasive, non-native plants (especially those on the PA Noxious Weed list).    
- ☐ I set my lawnmower to the highest cutting level and/or use a mulching mower.    
- ☐ I use electric yard equipment (e.g., lawn mower, weed whacker, trimmer, etc.).   
- ☐ I leave my flower stalks in place over the winter.    
- ☐ I compost my leftover food and yard waste.  
- ☐ I limit my use of yard chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers and focus on using organic methods to mitigate weed and bug issues.    

III. Bird and Pollinator Support

- ☐ My yard has a source of food and water for birds, pollinators and other wildlife.    
- ☐ I have trees, shrubs, or bird houses where birds can raise their young.    
- ☐ I reduce light pollution by adhering to West Vincent's outdoor lighting ordinances.    
- ☐ I keep the fall leaves.   
- ☐ Other healthy yard habits? _____

IV. Paying It Forward Activities

- ☐ I volunteer or participate in West Vincent Township stewardship and educational events (free plants and free seeds giveaway, tree id walk, bird walks, garden demonstrations, nature care events, amphibian crossing, litter lifting, paper shredding & battery and other recycling, township committee meetings) :
- ☐ My yard has a Heritage Tree* or I would like to nominate one.
- ☐ I share native plants with friends and neighbors. *Plant name* _____
- ☐ I will share West Vincent Healthy Yard Program information & the provided resources.

* *Heritage Tree: a specimen tree that is listed by the Township as having exceptional cultural or historic significance.
The list of identified heritage trees is maintained at the Township office.*

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____
(Include Township)

Property size: _____ acres How did you learn about this program? _____

Spotlight on Youth Volunteer – Naomi Tzoanos – Environmental Caretaker



Naomi also enjoys tennis, playing competitively for 10 years. She loves the exhilarating game and how it challenges her to become a stronger player and individual.

As a rising senior at Owen J. Roberts High School, Naomi Tzoanos, volunteers in events through the National Honor Society, Key Club, and Math Honors Society. Naomi was inspired by Beth Intoccia and the Litter Lifters of West Vincent to lend a hand and help clean our township roads. Her participation in the Litter Lifter events lead her to the Young Ambassador program, where she became a student leader in Chester County.

We recently caught up with Naomi and asked her a few questions about her involvement in cleaning up litter and caring for the environment.

How long have you been participating in Litter Lifter events?

I participated in my first Litter Lifters event in November 2022 cleaning up Route 100 near Ludwigs Corner. I had heard about the great work they were doing in cleaning up my hometown and I wanted to get involved. I am very interested in environmentalism and sustainability, to maintain a healthy and clean environment.

At the end of my first event, my whole perspective changed. Every piece of litter on the road started to bother me. Once you put in the time to hand pick the trash from the roads, you truly value the importance of keeping the environment clean. I realized how preventable littering can be and how much work goes into cleaning up the litter on our roads.

In what other environmental programs do you participate?

I am a Young Ambassador for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Through the program, I conducted my own community assessment where I created a school supplies recycling drive. We collected old markers, pens, and pencils and then brought them to a recycling store in Phoenixville. I also held my own litter clean up event in Byers Station that was extremely successful. With just a few volunteers, we were able to fully clean up a basin that had excessive amounts of litter that had been blown into the basin by the wind.



As an ambassador, I am required to hold an education event that teaches the community about the power of caring for the Earth. As a part of the education event, I attended the Upper Main Line YMCA's first Earth Day gathering, where I had my own station along with the Litter Lifters. We taught young students the importance of recycling through a recycled arts and crafts activity. The students created ladybugs and bumblebees from recycled paper towel rolls. My goal for the activity was not only to put a smile on the students' faces, but also to teach them the value of recycling, reusing and repurposing.

I recently became the president of the OJR's Environmental Club. With my fellow officers, I hope to start programs and a variety of different activities that will hopefully teach students within the district the lifelong responsibility and importance of taking care of the environment.

I also enjoy writing on a blog called "The Cultural Environmentalist" where I write about the different ways that culture may affect peoples' attitudes and efforts toward caring for the environment. I am currently working on a small research project that will further investigate the importance of culture in recycling.

Why do you think it is important for teenagers to volunteer in their community?

I believe that there are a variety of different benefits that can be gained from volunteering. Teenagers can learn how to respect others, to cooperate with people, and manage their time. Volunteering allows us to feel accomplished and proud of ourselves and allows us to branch out and participate in programs that are new and from which we can learn about altruism, relationship building, and collaboration.

Thank you, Naomi, and friends, for dedicating your time to keeping our township and environment protected and beautiful.



Recognizing West Vincent Youth Community Service

Veterans Memorial - From Concept to Completion



Brian Baker is an Owen J. Roberts High School junior, a cross country athlete, and Life Scout, Troop 4. Brian joined the Cub Scouts in first grade and is now an Eagle Scout (an achievement reached by only 4% of scouts).

"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."

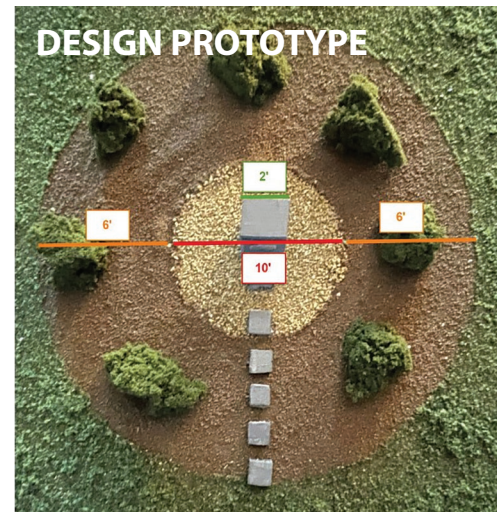
West Vincent Township is proud to announce the completion of a Veterans Memorial in Andrew Evans Park. This thoughtful project reflects the collaboration of West Vincent Eagle Scout, Brian Baker, his fellow scouts, friends, family and the Township Supervisors and Administration.

As an AP History student with a love for history and a passion for the Civil War and 20th century European conflict, Brian's vision to build this memorial to venerate our veterans was fostered early in elementary school as a Cub Scout.

Brian created the design and developed the construction plan last year. He presented his plan to the Board of Supervisors and Parks & Recreation Commission. He obtained approvals and signatures from his Scoutmaster, the troops Committee Chair, the beneficiary (West Vincent Township), and a member of the Chester County Council Board.

Sourced by Main Line Gardens, in Malvern, native plants such as Winterberry and Bee Balm were planted along with hardwood mulch and pond gravel.

Brian and Troop 4 are extremely grateful for the opportunity to provide our residents with a place to reflect and honor those who served our country. The Township appreciates Brian's creativity and respect for military service. A dedication will be held for the memorial soon.



Brian and team worked over a period of four days and 12 hours of labor to install the memorial.

Day 1 - marked the area and perimeter and edged the outside circle. **Day 2** - finished excavation and marking. **Day 3** - placed the stoned screening. **Day 4** - placed boulder (with the help of six able bodies), formed inner ring with stones and small pond cobble, placed plants and mulch and mounted the plaque.



Volunteer Openings

We now have openings for committee members in Human Relations, Environmental Advisory Council, Sustainability Committee, Litter Lifters, Trail Implementation Plan and Clean Energy Transition Team. Scan the QR code to complete our Volunteer Form and join these committees.

No experience required, just a willingness to provide a lending hand in our township. If you are interested, please complete our Volunteer Form and we will be in touch!





729 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Call: 610.458.1601

Fax: 610.458.1603

email: office@westvincenttp.org

web: www.westvincenttp.org

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West Vincent Fall Fest at Opalanie Park!

West Vincent Township's Fall Fest will take place on Saturday, October 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Opalanie Park, located at 1422 Saint Matthews Rd. This all-ages event is rain or shine.

The West Vincent Township Parks & Recreation Commission invites the public to enjoy this spectacular new park's tree-lined trails and sweeping autumnal vistas, while showcasing Opalanie ("Bald eagle" in Native American Lenni Lenape) through hosted trail and bird tours, crafts and games, musical expressions, and locally supported food vendors, farmers, and producers, along with pumpkin painting and animal friends.

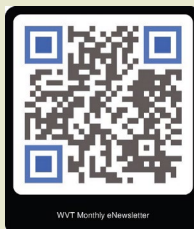
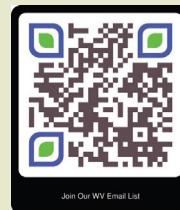
The committee seeks volunteers (including parking guides, greeters, and craft leaders).

Those interested in volunteering may contact Dana Alan: dalan@westvincenttp.org.

Look for updates on this event on our Fall Fest web page on our township website, township Facebook page and Instagram!

JOIN US

Join Our Email List to receive email notifications on Township topic(s) of your choice. **Why choose to receive email notifications?** It's personalized! 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. **Choose to receive monthly eNewsletter** directly in your email inbox. **Why choose to receive the eNewsletter?** It's a consolidated look at the month ahead, so you don't miss meetings or events that interest you.